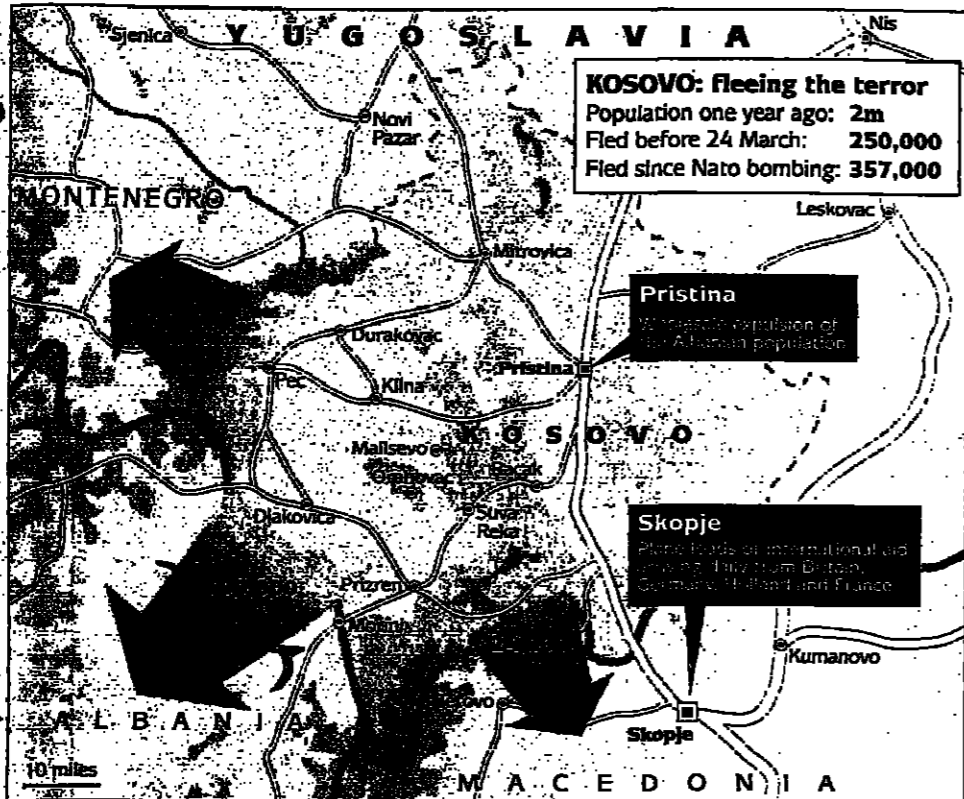


Famine stalks the fleeing hordes as relief agencies struggle to keep up



THE REFUGEES

By PAUL VALLEY and CHRISTOPHER BRADING

THERE ARE four horsemen of the Apocalypse. Behind war and death there inevitably follow famine and pestilence. To the horrors already witnessed coming out of Kosovo we must now add the threat of hunger and disease among the ad hoc refugee camps which are springing up in Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania. But warning also came yesterday of a timetable of starvation.

Within seven to 10 days those people may be malnourished and starving. And it is impossible to reach them at this time," said Catherine Bertini the executive director of the United Nations food agency, the World Food Programme in London yesterday. Increased international assistance was urgently required for those on the border but there was no way to reach the bulk of the population trapped inside Kosovo, where it is feared the internal food distribution system has collapsed under the pressure of the conflict.

"We are not looking at people who are in desperate physical shape when they come over the border," Ms Bertini said. But, she said, that was because many had received WFP food inside Kosovo in recent months. "However, certainly a human being cannot stand very many days without access to food."

There is no way of knowing what the scale of the problem inside the region now is. Aid agencies are possibly overestimating the immediacy of the dangers but, since all the staff from the WFP and other UN agencies were pulled out of Kosovo before the air strikes began, there will be no way of monitoring the rate of deterioration. Only the condition of the ensuing flows of refugees will give a time-lagged clue.

Since Nato launched air strikes against Yugoslav targets a week ago, at least 140,000 people have fled Kosovo and aid officials say another 20,000 are on their way. It is one of Europe's largest forced exoduses since the Second World War and yesterday in Washington the US Assistant Secretary of State, Julia Taft, pledged to support the international aid organisations who are moving to help the thousands of refugees cross the Kosovo border. "For those who are able to get out, they will be able to avail themselves of international protection," she said. "We are going to be ready with the international community to provide assistance."

Even so the food which the WFP has been for some time stockpiling in the border regions of Kosovo's neighbours - in preparation for a flow of refugees - is likely to prove inadequate. "The situation is far graver than we anticipated because there are more people crossing the border - sometimes as many as 4,000 people an hour," Ms Bertini said.

Other international agencies and governments have



A Kosovar refugee sitting yesterday amidst tents set up at the Piscine Camp in Tirana, Albania

Jerome Delay

also stepped in and aircraft loaded with humanitarian aid began converging on the Balkans yesterday. Yesterday the WFP sent 40 tons of wheat flour and 10 tons of high protein biscuits from the Albanian capital, Tirana to the northern Albanian town of Kukes, where some 70,000 refugees have fled.

On Monday, it sent 9.8 tons of biscuits to the area. On Tuesday, the agency delivered 90 tons of food to the Macedonian capital, Skopje, enough to feed 12,000 people for two weeks. But

this is only a fraction of what will be needed.

Relief workers will also have to cope with increasingly difficult logistical problems. Refugees are being relocated to small communities in Albania, and the roads leading to those villages are poor and can only be reached by small vehicles. The agency is appealing for more vehicles as well as increased donations of vegetable oil, beans and sugar.

But by far the greatest problem is with those Kosovars - the

vast majority of the population - who still remain inside Yugoslavia. At least half a million of them are thought to be displaced within their own land. Tens of thousands have left their homes and are in hiding in the hills.

Until last week, WFP staff had been working desperately to try to reach them on horseback and motorcycles. But the last monthly rations were handed out on March 23 - to a group of 120,000 internally displaced people. How long those

with earlier hand-outs can eke them out must be uncertain. In addition, many of the UN stores have been looted, according to reports filtering out to WFP staff on the borders.

There is no obvious way of getting food to these people. "It is impossible to air drop food because it is difficult to locate where people are and planes are required to fly very low when dropping food, which would make them into targets and that is too much of a risk," Ms Bertini said. In any case the

scale of the problem is likely to be far greater than can be coped with by air-drops. And it is likely to be more long-lived. "The food crisis threatens to be a long-term problem because no harvest is expected this year," Ms Bertini said. Famine is not imminent, she said. "Famine is a massive number of people dying and that is not the situation," she said. "But this is just the beginning of a potential catastrophe and we are gearing up to prepare for the worst."

'A factory blitzed and our livelihood gone'

SERBS UNDER FIRE

By ROBERT FISK in Cacak, Serbia

IT LOOKED as though a giant had run amok through the Sloboda co-operative factory. Entire buildings had been pulverised, roofs ripped off and buried over railway lines, heavy electrical machinery torn from its fittings and thrown hundreds of feet into the air. Half a building had fallen into the river. When I went to find the impact of one of the 12 Nato Tomahawk cruise missiles that devastated this square mile of industry on Tuesday morning, I almost fell into a 30ft crater.

The burnt-out sheds contained mangled vacuum cleaners and hair-dryers, flattened kitchen stoves and twisted fridges. One huge packing shed had been blown inside out, its tons of wooden cartons left hanging in the blasted trees, its iron lattice resting on a bridge. "I have a wife and four children and I earned 100 German marks a month and now my life is over," one of the factory workers muttered. He was weeping.

"Last year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our factory and yesterday we received the strangest congratulations from Nato," screamed Radomir Ljubic. "The factory is destroyed - 5,000 jobs and 20,000 citizens of our town who live off this factory - all gone." Mr Ljubic was shaking with anger, sweating, his tie askew, anxious to try his cynicism on us. "Please report all this as objectively as you can," he shouted. "Don't make vacuum cleaners into grenade launchers."

No, there were no grenade launchers to be seen in the wreckage of the Sloboda factory. Nor heavy guns, nor tanks, nor aeroplanes. That the men of Cacak who worked here made vacuum cleaners and hair-dryers and boilers and fridges was all too obvious. The heat-sealing glass of a thousand stoves sparkled in fragments amid the pink cherry blossom in front of the undamaged factory head office. But rather a lot of policemen hung around a few small sheds at one end of the plant, including a clutch of plain-

clothes men who didn't want us there. "One of these wonderful high-tech missiles of America failed to explode," Mr Ljubic added by way of explanation.

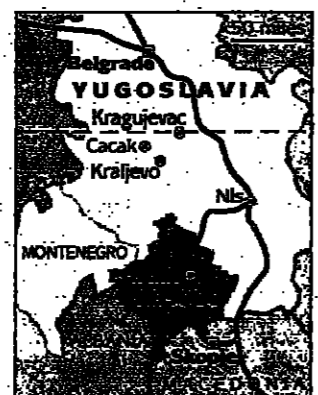
At least two Yugoslav sources pointed out that a small part of the Cacak factory did, at one stage - after the imposition of United Nations sanctions during the Bosnian war - make ammunition. Dual-use factories were introduced by the late Communist dictator, Tito, and I couldn't help but wonder why so many blue uniformed policemen should want to patrol those remaining sheds, separated from us by a plastic tape

stroyed the working lives of the Serbs of Cacak, the 12 Tomahawks, computer-programmed onto the Sloboda sheds, were carried in B-52s from Britain and fired at Serbia from Hungarian airspace.

What is the answer to such technology, the Serbs keep asking? Three days ago, I heard Yugoslavia's air force commander, General Spasoje Smiljanic, trying to answer that question. "A man who is willing and capable can resist technical superiority," he told us. "And a nation is invincible if it knows what it is sacrificing and defending." But that only seemed to echo the Iraqi minister who insisted, just before the Western onslaught on his country in 1991, that "a country of 18 million people cannot be defeated by a computer."

In the equally industrialised town of Kragujevac yesterday, we found thousands of men from the Zastava car factory who thought they had found their own answer to Nato's technology. Almost all of the 26,000 workforce have slept in the production sheds, the off-duty workers sleeping alongside the night shift, human shields that are daring Nato to commit an atrocity by killing them all. Jusic Doravic said he was more than ready to die for a factory that keeps his town alive. "Without our factory, there will be no city," he said. "If Zastava dies, we die."

And so it was that before Nato's bombardment began a week ago, these Zastava car men posted an Internet message to the world - and to the White House - announcing their permanent presence on the factory floor and their readiness for martyrdom. It seems to have worked. There are the usual Nato rumours of dual-purpose production at Zastava - and at least one report of an adjoining plant being damaged by a missile - but the main factory, running the length of the



town, has remained untouched.

Instead, Nato turned its attention on the first night of the war to the barracks at Sumarice. A row of garages has been pulverised near the barracks. It was, one officer agreed, a military target, though hardly one that would win Nato's war. "I have to agree it was military," he said. "And if you live next to a barracks, you may get hurt. But apparently in Kosovo it's different. There Nato is bombing civilian villages."

Many thousands of the Zastava workers trooped past the damaged barracks yesterday to join a "peace" demonstration. For by an awful coincidence, Nato's first salvo of this new Balkan war landed only a few hundred metres from the mass grave of 7,000 Yugoslav civilians, victims of the worst Nazi atrocity of the Second World War.

The Serbs I spoke to all wanted to remind me of this killing field, anxious that the Englishman with the notebook - whose country was once an ally against Hitler - should remember these Serb martyrs of the war against fascism. In retaliation for the killing of 70 German soldiers in 1941, the Wehrmacht ordered the execution of 7,000 men and women - 100 for each German killed - and when they couldn't make up the numbers, they went to the schools and dragged children to the execution pit.

Old Milija Becanovic even remembered seeing the corpses half buried under piles of hay. In the little museum on the hill, there were photographs of frightened men and women, under German guard, awaiting their slaughter. And I could not help thinking, as I looked at the 58-year-old pictures, of what was happening on the other side of the mountains to the south, in Kosovo. "Terrorists," Mr Becanovic roared when I mentioned the stories of mass slaughter in the province. "It is the Serbs who are being killed." The mass grave at Kragujevac, it seems, means all things to all men.



WHY NOT SPOIL SOMEONE FOR EASTER?



WAR IN THE BALKANS

KLA's ragged army imposes draft

THE RESISTANCE

BY EMMA DALY in Kukes

A CURIOUS guard of honour – 10 soldiers in red berets and mis-matching uniforms – stood around the gate of the electricity sub-station in Kukes, amid flat ground packed with hundreds of tractors and thousands of refugees.

The soldiers were not there to protect the Kosovo Albanians fleeing the Serbian army's savage assault; they were seeking new blood for the fight that goes on.

Along the border road, and in the main street of Kukes, and south of Kukes on the main road to the Albanian capital, Tirana, uniformed soldiers of the Kosovo Liberation Army set up roadblocks and started searching for young men fleeing the Serbs.

"I want to go with my family – if they let me go," said 23-year-old Binak Likaj, who was leaning against the plastic sheet covering a tractor-trailer parked in a roadside camp. "The KLA is recruiting soldiers for the army to go back to fight."

He looked nervous, as 10 guerrillas were standing around at the gate to the camp. "I want to go with my family," he repeated.

Fatmir Krasniqi, 21, was forcibly recruited to the struggle by the KLA at the Kosovo-Albania border crossing at Morini, where he was waiting for news of his older brother, Flamur. Hours before, their

mother, Mhirie, had died in Kukes hospital. Mhirie's heart problem had proved too much for the terrifying 21-hour walk out from Kosovo.

"They took Fatmir last night, but I went and showed them the death certificate for my wife, so they released him for one or two days," said his father, Muharrem Krasniqi.

He had managed to shepherd four of his children – Fatmir, Azem, 19, and daughters Mhirie and Shote – out of Kosovo, all the time carrying his wife on a stretcher the 11 miles from their home city of Prizren.

Muharrem had ordered his eldest son, Flamur, to split off from the main group with his pregnant wife and child, so that if the Serbs attacked them some of the family at least might survive.

But Muharrem has no intention of fleeing any further. "If I can get the girls settled somewhere, I want to go and fight with my sons," he said firmly.

Many other Kosovar refugees said they shared his feeling. They wanted to return to battle, but first were determined to ensure that their women and children were safe.

"I want to go and fight back, but only after I settle my family somewhere," said Asllan Kreyziu, leaning against his cousin's new Golf, parked amid a sea of tractors in a



KLA guerrillas standing over the coffins of two of their comrades during a burial ceremony earlier this year

temporary camp. "Otherwise I will not know where they are. It is not suicide to go and fight for Kosovo's independence."

Mr Kreyziu, who is married and has three children, added: "We left a lot of property behind. My uncle has worked for 20 years in Germany and

everything we own is there. "We are not immigrants, that is where we belong, and we are not giving up that easily."

Other relatives – there are about 300 Kreyziu family members from the village of Rugova, in southern Kosovo –

were not so keen. Two young men squatting on a small patch of grass surrounded by tractor-trailers loaded with children told of their dilemma.

The villagers wanted to leave last Thursday, before the Serbs attacked. "But the local

[Albanian] authorities told us not to flee, to stay in our houses," said Tefik Kreyziu, 21. "On Friday we were shelled and all the houses were set on fire. Some people were trapped inside their houses and killed."

"If I am asked to go and

fight, I will, but everything is burning there ... we will get killed."

His mother chipped in: "We want him to come with us, he has to look after us. If he goes back, who will do that?"

But her son's chances of escaping the draft look slim.

Ten KLA soldiers were manning the main gate of the makeshift camp, set up overnight on flat ground around the walled electricity station.

The rebels were stopping each trailer, van and car that was leaving, peering through the windows and under plastic awnings in search of men of military age.

Along the narrow, rutted mountain road south from the Morini border crossing, guerrillas have set up recruiting checkpoints.

Most of the buses fanning out towards towns all over Albania were full of women and children. But here and there a few mini-vans and trucks could be seen setting off full of young men.

Presumably they were heading along the mountain road to a village alleged to be the site of a KLA training camp.

"If they ever want to go back to their homes, they have to fight," said Eduard Myslija, an Albanian from Kukes, where thousands of the refugees are still milling about. If they don't go to fight for Kosovo, who will?

The Kosovo rebels are wary of admitting their activities in Albania. They fear the recruitment drive may make the country a target for the Yugoslav army.

But if President Slobodan Milosevic continues to defy Nato's demands, the KLA may find itself supplied with Western military equipment and training in the near future.

From terrorists to freedom fighters

BY MARCUS TANNER

FOR YEARS the Kosovars confined their opposition to Serb rule to non-violent protests. When the Croat president Franjo Tudjman urged them to rise in 1991, at the height of Croatia's war with Yugoslavia, the Kosovo leader Ibrahim Rugova refused. "We would be massacred," he told me at the time, in Pristina.

But after Croatia and then Bosnia broke away, the Kosovars' frustration with Rugova's tactics boiled over and so the KLA was born.

Reports of the Kosovo Liberation Army early last year were dismissed at first as Serbian propaganda, aimed at justifying Belgrade's worsening repression of the province's two million Albanians. But in spring the new rebel army burst on to the world stage, rapidly over-running large tracts of the province and even attempting to take over the large central town of Orahovac.

The word "army" still seemed an exaggeration for the rag-tag groups of farmers and school teachers with rusty rifles and mismatched uniforms. But they did have some money, funnelled back into Kosovo from the huge Albanian

diaspora based in Switzerland, Sweden, Germany and the United States.

The Serbs decided to let the KLA over-extend itself, in order to have the excuse to crush both the KLA and the villages and towns where it was strongest.

In a massive assault last summer, Orahovac and many other villages were smashed to pieces and thousands of civilians driven from their homes.

The latest Serb offensive, which is vastly bigger in scale and scope, appears to have thrown the KLA completely on to the defensive.

"They have been told to make no offensive attacks on the Serbs," said Isa Zymberi, a Kosovar representative in London. "They don't want it to look as if they are taking advantage of air strikes. All the units still inside Kosovo are engaged in helping the civilians."

Mr Zymberi said the KLA was still operating but was crippled by a lack of weapons. Neighbouring Albania, Europe's poorest state, is unable to do much to help. Tirana is also wary of openly flouting the international arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia, which covers Kosovo.

"The lack of arms is the main problem," Mr Zymberi said. "The KLA enjoys widespread support. Every Albanian supports them. They would have 200,000 fighters today if they had the arms, but they have none and have to turn people down as a result."

"What they want is covert arms supplies but they don't seem to have received any yet," said Tim Judah, a Balkan expert who has studied the KLA. He cautions against writing off the organisation, just because they are not confronting the Serb tanks.

"Last summer they melted away when the Serbs arrived. But after they had swept through, the KLA soon reappeared behind them," he said. "The Serbs simply don't have enough men to be everywhere in Kosovo all the time."

And one KLA source, who wanted to remain anonymous, said the organisation was "euphoric" about the support it was starting to receive from the West. Once dismissed in the West as "terrorists", the KLA now seems the West's best alternative to putting in ground troops. "We are practically part of Nato now," the source said.

Enemies fight proxy battle in cyberspace

THE INTERNET WAR

BY KIM SENGUPTA

THE BALKANS have a long history of bitter wars, but this is the first one to be fought out in cyberspace. The allies may not be prepared, as yet, to commit ground forces, but they had no hesitation in sending in the Internet against Slobodan Milosevic.

Web-sites set up by Nato and the British government were pronounced a great success in the propaganda campaign, with thousands of calls from Serbian surfers.

The counter-attack was swift, sneaky and showed the ruthlessness of the Yugoslav leader. His regime unleashed "germ warfare" against the Nato website, sending in a wave of macro viruses. Then came phase two of the operation, a specially manufactured programme which carpet bombed the site.

Last night the British site, set up by the Ministry of Defence, with help from the Foreign Office, was reportedly safe from the "mad hackers" of the "Butcher of Belgrade", as the tabloids may put it, and attracting ever increasing num-

ber of callers from former Yugoslavia.

The site, led by Richard Davies of the Defence Information Department, was originally set up last October. From the 1st to 20th March it received 1,024 calls. After airstrikes began the number climbed to 8,600. In the 24 hours since it was translated into Serbo-Croat, 1,500 "hits" came in, 1,400 from former Yugoslavia.

Assessing the damage to the Nato service spokesman Jamie Sten said in Brussels: "Since the 28th March the service from our Internet home page has been erratic to say the least. We have looked at this very carefully and it seems that we have been dealing with some hackers in Belgrade who have hacked into our website and caused line saturation of the server by using 'ping' bombardment strategy."

"It has also been saturated by one individual who is currently sending us 2,000 e-mails a day and we are dealing with macro viruses from Yugoslavia into our e-mail system."

One of the major Serbian sites is the home page of the Serbian Ministry of Information, which, among other things, contains reports on "Albanian terrorist activity". The Serbian Network has become a rallying point against Western figures such as Tony Blair, President Clinton and Robin Cook, who are photographed with the caption "Wanted - War Criminal" underneath.

Defence Secretary George Robertson said: "They tell lies about us. We will go on telling the truth about them and making sure that the unfortunate people of Yugoslavia have access to the truth... about Milosevic and his brutal repression."

Cliff Jones, group editor of news for AOL, one of the world's largest online service providers, said: "There are so many eye witness reports and people are clambering over each other with their websites, desperate to get them out. There is so much information that, at worst, it may be confusing, but at best it is the ultimate freedom of information."

BUY IT!

Recycled newspapers and magazines

READ IT!

made up over 46.03% of the raw material

RECYCLE IT!

used in UK newspapers in 1997.

TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP RECYCLE:

DIAL THE
FAX BACK NUMBER
0660 616233
0660 calls cost 49p per
minute at all times



OR WRITE TO:
1 RIVENHALL ROAD,
WESTLEA,
SWINDON, SN5 7BD
TELEPHONE: 01793 879229
FAX: 01793 886182

Issued by the NEWSPRINT & NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

هكذا من الاصل

Plan may not be working, says Nato

STRATEGY
BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington AND KIM SENGUPTA

NATO EXTENDED its air campaign over Yugoslavia yesterday, with allied spokesmen insisting publicly there were no doubts about the strategy. But behind the scenes, there are growing worries that the plan is not working. Despite the Defence Secretary's assertion yesterday that the bombing has "seriously rattled" Slobodan Milosevic, driving him to make his peace offer, there is growing fear of a strategic stalemate with no military victory in sight.

Six days of intensive bombardment has failed to take out the Serb anti-aircraft defences, with damage estimated at being only "minimal to moderate", say military sources. The hit rate is low, and the US Air Force is down to its last hundred cruise missiles.

The new programme of strikes will extend north of the 44th parallel, allowing allied aircraft to target political and military targets in Belgrade such as the interior ministry.

But the US had indicated on Wednesday that such attacks were coming, diluting the effect

of the move. "The interior ministry will now be empty," said one official in Washington. And the extension does not go as far as the US and Britain had hoped because some Nato powers, in particular Italy, are nervous of the attacks.

If the extension does not yield results, it is unclear whether Nato has anything more up its sleeve.

Despite some pressure in the US for ground forces, there is no evidence of any change of heart in the White House or the Pentagon.

Some officials have talked of setting up of a demilitarised zone on the Yugoslav borders with Allied aircraft endlessly patrolling the skies.

In London yesterday the chief of the defence staff, General Sir Charles Guthrie, admitted the operation has not gone as far forward as hoped. He said: "It could be a long haul. It will be dangerous. He [Milosevic] may, we hope, see sense quickly but we have to steel ourselves for a long campaign if that is what is required."

General Guthrie said Nato



The damage caused by a Nato bomb dropped near the Yugoslav army barracks in Kragujevac was plain to see yesterday

TIMETABLE

TUESDAY 30 MARCH

9.00pm: The US says the Yugoslav proposals obtained by Russian Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, fall "far short" of what must be done before Nato will halt its air campaign against Serbia.

9.30pm: The US warns Yugoslavia that any attempt to overthrow Montenegro's democratically elected government would extend the conflict with Nato.

11.00pm: Air-raid sirens sound in Belgrade. Sirens also go off in the Serbian towns of Nis and Novi Sad and the Montenegrin capital, Podgorica.

WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH

1.30am: Nato forces attack Belgrade suburbs and targets around Pristina.

8.00am: Reports emerge of hundreds of ethnic Albanians arriving in Macedonia, saying they were forced by Serbian police to board a train taking them out of Kosovo.

2.40pm: Russia says it is sending a reconnaissance ship to the Mediterranean.

ts to
ers

Russians send reconnaissance ship to war zone

ANGRY AND rebuffed, Russia has inched closer to being drawn into the Yugoslav conflict by announcing plans to dispatch a warship close to the war zone in the Mediterranean.

Its Defence Minister, Marshal Igor Sergeyev, said Moscow had applied to Turkey for permission to send a reconnaissance vessel through the Bosphorus tomorrow, and was considering sending six more ships.

Though a largely symbolic gesture, the dispatch of a Black Sea fleet reflects the alarmingly high international tensions over Kosovo, and will make it harder for Moscow to fulfil its goal of mediating in this dispute.

Marshal Sergeyev, whose ministry has threatened to provide intelligence to the Yugoslav military, said the ship would "monitor Nato actions (and) ensure Russia's security".

It also suggests that the Russian government is struggling to maintain its line of balancing opposition to Nato's actions with a policy of staying out of the war, and preserving long-term relations with the West.

Sources pointed out yesterday that April is the traditional period for the Russian navy to set sail on training exercises, yet there is little doubt that the presence of Moscow's vessels in the arena could complicate the conflict, and increase the overall risks. Russian agencies said the seven ships would include missile and anti-submarine frigates.

Further evidence that relations between Moscow and the West are fast freezing over came with the return of the Russian premier Yevgeny Primakov, after his still-born peace mission to Belgrade and Bonn. No sooner had he disembarked from his aircraft than he was savaging Nato for its "stupid, tragically mistaken" decision to continue bombing Yugoslavia.

The Prime Minister blamed the failed mission on Nato intransigence, arguing that President Slobodan Milosevic had sent "a signal... enough to start a political process". In the event, the offer brokered by Mr Primakov - in which Yugoslavia would reduce forces in Kosovo provided the Nato bombing stopped - was swiftly rejected by Nato and the White House.

Mr Primakov yesterday even went so far as to question whether genocide in Kosovo is the fault of the Serbs, or the alliance. "It is for you to judge where genocide is happening, when it is happening and against whom."

Few in Russia or beyond expected the premier's mission to succeed, and his words can be put down partly to rhetoric for domestic consumption. But he may have been affronted by the abrupt speed of Nato's rejection.

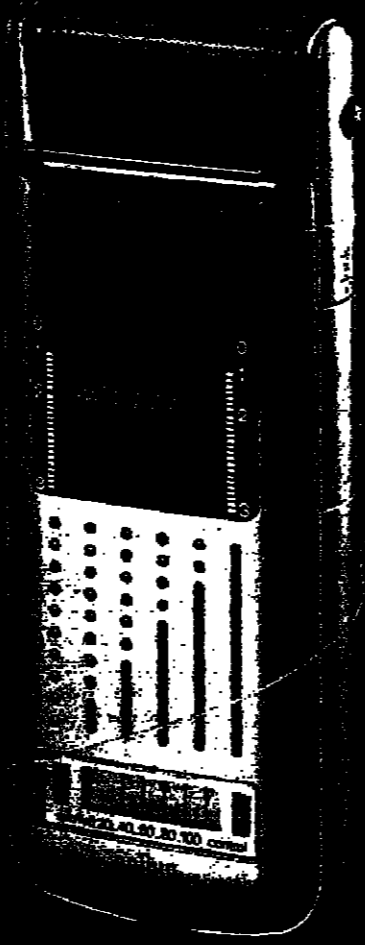
MOSCOW PROTEST

BY PHIL REEVES in Moscow

Something you wouldn't expect from a top quality shaver. Cuts.

proxy
space

one of the main... the home page of the... Ministry of Defence... which, among other... contains reports on... the terrorist activity... the Network has received... ing point against... we such as Tony... Island Channel, and... who are photographing... the caption "Wanted for... chief" underneath... defence Secretary... stand said: "They will... law. We will go on... about them and... that the infrastructure... Yugoslavia have access... with... about Milosevic...... about...... group... for AOL, one of... largest online service... said: "There are... reports on... in the... with their... to get them... to get them... of hand it is... of information...




BRAUN

Value saving £30 off the 5150 and £15 off the 5155 and £15 off the 5141 Flex Integral models, all with the... shaving system and shaving head. So these are the only cuts you'll get from the World's No 1 foil shavers.

OPEN
GOOD FRIDAY

There's something for everyone at The BT shop this Easter.

A Cellnet pre-pay digital mobile phone to suit you.



easylife™

With no bills or contract to sign, you can get connected with one £10 voucher every 90 days.

Perfect for younger people. It's your call.

Keep in touch for as little as £20 a year with an easylife pre-pay phone.

It's perfect for infrequent users and emergencies.

Calls between 'U' phones now only 5p per minute

£69.99

• Up to 120 minutes talktime and 85 hours standby time

• Displays remaining call credit

• 99 name and number memory

• Allows you to send and receive text messages

Was £99.99

Now £89.99

Save £10

£10 call voucher included.**

FREE Teddy bear when you purchase a pre-pay mobile phone.**

Easter offers in-store	
corded phones	e.g. Piazza 30 Was £29.99 Was £29.99 Now £4.99
cordless phones	e.g. Audioline FF555 Was £29.99 Was £29.99 In-store Price £27.99 Voucher Price £26.99
answering machines	e.g. Morphy Richards Digital Messenger Was £24.99 In-store Price £22.99 Voucher Price £19.99
fax machines	A great range of fax offers in-store

Voucher Price Savings

Simply take this advertisement into The BT shop to claim the savings**.

Call in for prices you can trust

For your nearest store call Freefone 0800 400 004

The BT shop

communication experts

you are not entirely satisfied with the product, you have purchased the product for a full 14 days. You can return it to the shop for a full refund.

Every purchase includes the price of our low shipping products to ensure you receive the best value for your money. We will refund the shipping costs if you return the product within 14 days of purchase.

price watch

Rover plant rescued by £150m grant

A MASSIVE package of state aid, thought to be worth some £150m, was finally agreed yesterday between the Government and BMW to secure the future of Rover Longbridge, Britain's biggest car plant.

Although both sides refused to divulge the value of the deal, it is understood that they struck a compromise between the £220m demanded by the German company and the £118m initially offered by ministers.

The deal, one of the biggest agreed by a British government, was sealed after head-to-head negotiations yesterday morning between Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Professor Joachim Milberg, the BMW chairman.

The agreement will secure 12,000 jobs at the Midlands plant, although union sources believe the workforce will be reduced through natural wastage. The deal also means that the threat hanging over a further 50,000 jobs that are dependent on the plant has receded.

Management is expected to press ahead with an ambitious £1.7bn programme to build a new range of cars at the site and to modernise the huge factory. A joint statement from the Government, BMW and Rover said that an agreement in principle had been reached, which would secure production of the new medium-sized car at Longbridge. It added that a final agreement depended on BMW board approval on 12 April and the approval of the EU author-

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

ities who monitor state aid to industry.

Tony Woodley, the national officer for the motor industry at the Transport and General Workers' Union, said the state aid was tremendous news that removed the "uncertainty, insecurity and anxiety" that had hung over the union's members for the past five months.

Workers at Longbridge could now look forward to a "bright new future", Mr Woodley said. "While we have always been optimistic that a positive outcome would eventually emerge, it is an immense relief that the long dark days of pur-

gatory are over."

Ken Jackson, the general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said the agreement was good for Longbridge and its workforce. "I was always confident that the Government and BMW would reach a successful conclusion given that the workforce had delivered new flexibility at the plant. The months of despondency are finally over and we can get on with the real job of producing cars that we can be proud of."

It is understood uncertainty over the future of the complex had led to difficulties in the implementation of an agreement to introduce the new working practices - part of the package that secured the plant's future. A Rover source said workers were disinclined to improve

productivity while management was threatening to switch production to Hungary.

Mr Byers said the Government's objective had always been to secure the long-term future of Longbridge. "When the details are announced it will show that this deal breaks new ground as far as government support is concerned, not just for the preservation of jobs, but to increase productivity and improve the skills of the workforce." Mr Byers had always maintained that the deal would need to secure good value for taxpayers as well as help the industry to prosper.

Business, page 18



A Longbridge worker shows his delight on hearing the news of the Government's agreement on a deal for the Rover plant

Newsteam

EXTRA EXTRA VALUE

HUGE SAVINGS

ON HUNDREDS OF TOP TITLES



LED ZEPPELIN - FOUR SYMBOLS
WAS £9.99
NOW £4.99



OASIS - DEFINITELY MAYBE
WAS £14.99
NOW £6.99



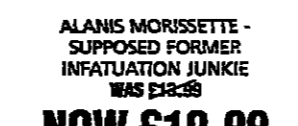
YOU'VE GOT MAIL - VARIOUS
WAS £13.99
NOW £9.99



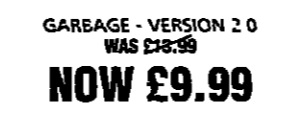
RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS - BLOOD SUGAR SEX MAGIK
WAS £9.99
NOW £4.99



BLUR - BLUR
WAS £13.99
NOW £9.99



ALANIS MORISSETTE - SUPPOSED FORMER INFATUATION JUNKIE
WAS £18.99
NOW £10.99



GARBAGE - VERSION 2.0
WAS £18.99
NOW £9.99



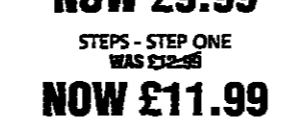
FRANK SINATRA - MY WAY, THE BEST OF
WAS £18.99
NOW £9.99



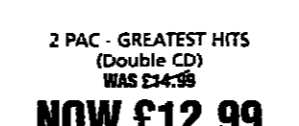
CATATONIA - INTERNATIONAL VELVET
WAS £18.99
NOW £9.99



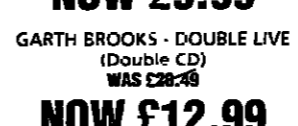
DIVINE COMEDY - FIN DE SIÈCLE
WAS £18.99
NOW £9.99



MADONNA - THE IMMACULATE COLLECTION
WAS £18.99
NOW £9.99



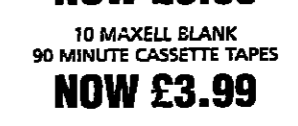
BEASTIE BOYS - HELLO NASTY
WAS £18.99
NOW £10.99



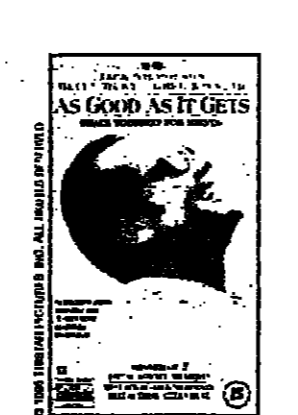
PRODIGY - THE FAT OF THE LAND
WAS £18.99
NOW £9.99



GARTH BROOKS - DOUBLE LIVE
(Double CD)
WAS £28.99
NOW £12.99



FAITHLESS - SUNDAY BPM
WAS £18.99
NOW £9.99



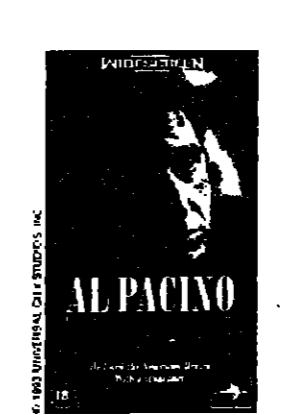
AS GOOD AS IT GETS
WAS £9.99
NOW £6.99



THE BIG BLUE (WS)
WAS £9.99
NOW £5.99



MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING
WAS £9.99
NOW £6.99



SCARFACE (WS)
WAS £9.99
NOW £5.99



CASINO
WAS £9.99
NOW £5.99

FREE Games Offer



FREE PC Premier Pad worth £9.99 when you buy a CD ROM game*

*Offer applies to stickered product only. All titles are subject to availability at this price. For a limited period only.

*PC Premier Pad offer applies to product bearing this sticker.

topdogformusic-videos-games

buy now from over 100 stores nationwide or www.hmv.co.uk or 0990 33 45 78



Drive for standards 'stresses children'

CHILDREN AS young as three are being subjected to stressful Japanese-style schooling because of the Government's drive to raise standards, teachers warned yesterday.

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers conference in Harrogate heard some schools drew up lesson plans for play-time while parents sought extra tuition to coach their children for national curriculum tests.

Delegates criticised a new pre-school curriculum emphasising the three Rs and called on ministers to consider delaying the school starting age. They said "pushy" parents

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

were regarding literate young children as status symbols and called on the Government to consider putting off the start of formal school to the age of six or seven.

Under government guidelines covering education from three to five, published earlier this year, children will be set more than 60 sime - including detailed targets for reading, writing and arithmetic.

The guidelines are out for consultation but are intended to come into force next year.

Kosovo Crisis

Thousands of people are fleeing Kosovo to take refuge in neighbouring countries. Many had just a few minutes to leave, taking nothing but the clothes on their backs.

Running programmes in Kosovo before the escalation of the crisis, Action Against Hunger has reacted immediately, participating in emergency relief operations in Albania. Experts and equipment are on the way to build crucial water and sanitation facilities for the refugees.

At the same time, other international teams on the ground are preparing for further relief operations in Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo.

Your help is urgently needed.

0171 242 5665

You want to help the people of Kosovo? I enclose a cheque/postal order payable to Action Against Hunger UK for:

☐ £250 ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 other £

Or please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex/CAF

Expiry date Today's date Please tick if you would like a receipt

Signature Name

Address

Postcode

Please send copy to Action Against Hunger UK

1 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 4AB



Registered charity no. 104701

Judges accept Big Mac 'heart risk'

A DIET of McDonald's burgers may lead to the "very real risk" of heart disease, three Court of Appeal judges ruled yesterday.

This finding alone meant another triumph for Britain's most famous do-it-yourself lawyers, who took on the might of the giant fast food chain after it accused them of libel.

Supporters of the environmental campaigners, Dave Morris and Helen Steel, celebrated as the pair overturned some of the High Court rulings in their mammoth legal battle with McDonald's.

Lords Justices Pill, May and Keane handed down a 300-page judgment, which ruled that it was fair comment to say McDonald's employees worldwide "do badly in terms of pay and conditions".

They also said it was true that "if one eats enough McDonald's food, one's diet may well become high in fat etc, with the very real risk of heart disease".

The judges said their findings "must have a serious effect on their trading reputation since it goes to the very business in which they are engaged".

"In our judgment it must have a greater impact on the respondent's (McDonald's) reputation than any other of the charges that the trial judge had found to be true," they added.

The judges said they had "considerable sympathy" with the pair's argument that the leaflet meant "that there is a respectable (not cranky) body of medical opinion which links a junk food diet with a risk of cancer and heart disease".

BY STEPHEN HOWARD
AND CATHY GORDON

But they said the allegations about cancer were not justified. They added that there was no truth in the charge about food poisoning and this was "especially serious" for a company in the restaurant business.

The judges also upheld that McDonald's was not responsible for starvation in the Third World or for the destruction of the rainforests and these allegations in the leaflet were "very harmful to a company's reputation".

The judgment says: "Nutrition and health risks always was and was bound to be an important element in the case, given McDonald's business."

"It is therefore highly significant that the allegation about the risk of heart disease has been justified."

"Moreover, even though the appellants failed to justify fully all the defamatory statements about the risks of cancer, it is well established that such facts as they did establish when seeking to prove justification of those statements may be relied upon in mitigation of damages."

They reduced McDonald's £80,000 damages awarded in the High Court against Ms Steel and Mr Morris to £40,000.

Mr Morris, 44, a former postman, and Ms Steel, 33, a former gardener, were ordered in June 1997 to pay the libel damages after a 314-day trial - the longest in English legal history - which is reckoned to have cost McDonald's £10m.

After the trial, Mr Justice Bell ruled that the company had been libelled by most of the allegations in a London Greenpeace campaign leaflet entitled "What's Wrong with McDonald's?" But he found that the leaflet was true when it accused McDonald's of paying low wages to its workers, being responsible for cruelty to some of the animals used in its food products and exploiting children in advertising campaigns.

McDonald's attempt to suppress the leaflet resulted in more than 3 million being handed out in the UK alone as publicity over what became known as the McLibel Trial increased.

A website highlighting the case and containing more than 20,000 files about the trial and McDonald's has been accessed more than 65 million times.

Richard Rampton QC, for McDonald's, told the judges that his client would not be taking the matter to the House of Lords.

During the appeal hearing, Mr Morris told the court that McDonald's had never applied for its damages or costs or for an injunction banning further publication of the leaflet.

The use of libel laws by multinational corporations was a form of censorship, he said.

After the appeal hearing, Mr Morris said: "This is a complete vindication of our decision to appeal in that two further areas of McDonald's core business practices have effectively been slammed by the court, on top of those findings in our favour by Mr Justice Bell."



Dave Morris and Helen Steel at the High Court in London yesterday where judges reduced McDonald's damages to £40,000. Karl Prouse

Mystery of steak and kidney pudding with no meat

STEAK AND kidney puddings that contained no steak and no kidney were among the glaring examples of poor food produced by household brand-name firms criticised yesterday in a government survey.

Supermarkets were furious with the Government for "name and shame" the companies that were found, through DNA testing, to be selling incorrectly labelled food - but some privately ordered changes with their suppliers.

The survey by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

inspectors found that one in seven samples of sausages, burgers, pies, pâtés and "recipe" dishes contained meat not declared on the label, while others did not contain the meat declared on the label.

Jeff Rooker, an Agriculture minister, said the findings showed clear failures in quality control by some of the big supermarket chains and corner shops. "A lot have said they didn't clean down the produc-

tion lines properly. That is less serious than if someone is churning in cheaper products, but it is bad in itself," he said.

Asda wrote to the ministry after inspectors found pork in eight Aberdeen Angus sausages labelled as containing beef at its store in South Bank, Leeds. Beef was also detected in two Scotch pies labelled as containing mutton and pork, and turkey was found in coarse chicken and bacon in red wine pâté. The supermarket said: "From our investigations it is clear that these contamina-

tions have been caused by insufficient attention to cleaning between the production lines."

But that did not explain the mystery of the missing ingredients in the steak and kidney pudding from Campbell Grocery Products in King's Lynn. The inspectors found no trace of beef or pork in the puddings.

Sainsbury's chicken breast in jelly was found to contain turkey, not chicken. Kwik Save economy chicken burgers contained turkey. Sainsbury's bolognese contained no beef, although beef was on the label.

Tesco's smooth Brussels pork and liver pâté contained pork, but also chicken and turkey.

J Sainsbury plc questioned the accuracy of the DNA tests. But Tesco wrote: "Mixing species remains a problem for the meat industry. We have again told our suppliers that this is unacceptable. We have formed a product integrity group to carry out unannounced audits of the meat and convenience food sector."

In a separate development, the cross-party Commons Select Committee studying the

government Bill to set up a food standards agency called on the Government to scrap the flat-rate levy of £90 on all Britain's 600,000 food outlets and replace it with a graduated levy.

The committee also called on the Government to give the agency a clearer remit over nutrition and dietary advice, in spite of ministers' misgivings about giving the agency too much power to interfere in food production. "We believe the agency should be the body responsible for setting the nutritional and dietary standards."

WHAT ARE YOU BUYING?

DNA tests by Maff inspectors found the following ingredients in these products:

■ Sainsbury's Cumberland pork sausages contained chicken.
■ Tesco Chicken and Broccoli Potato Top contained turkey.
■ Sainsbury's Chicken Breast in Jelly contained turkey.
■ Pork in Asda Aberdeen

Angus beef sausages.
■ Kwik Save economy chicken burgers contained turkey.
■ Bernard Matthews cooked chicken breast contained turkey.
■ Pork in Sainsbury's beef and onion pie.
■ Campbell's Grocery Products steak and kidney pudding contained no beef and no pigs' kidney.

Health warning on dangers of anti-bacterial cleaners

BY CHERRY NORTON,
CHARLES ARTHUR
AND CATHY MAYER

MANUFACTURERS ARE exploiting people's fears about hygiene with a whole range of expensive anti-bacterial products that may do more harm than good.

Experts believe the overuse of anti-bacterial agents in household products such as washing-up liquids, chopping boards, blenders and kitchen utensils could lead to resistant bacteria, and make people complacent about basic hygiene.

Research today in the science journal *Nature* confirms these fears. It shows that *E. coli*, one of the most common causes of food poisoning, could develop resistance to triclosan - a common anti-bacterial agent.

A *Health Which?* survey, also published today, found that half of the people in Britain have bought anti-bacterial products. But one in 10 wrongly believed the products made dishes, surfaces and hands sterile, and one in six believed chopping boards with anti-bacterial agents needed less cleaning.

An investigation by *The Independent* revealed manufacturers are charging a large premium for products that contain anti-bacterial agents. A standard bottle of Tesco washing-up liquid costs 67p, a similar product with an anti-

THE PRICE YOU PAY

Product	Anti-bacterial	Standard	%diff
Sainsbury's 10 All Purpose cloths	£1.59	49p	224
Tesco Washing up liquid	£1.35	67p	101
Fairy Washing up liquid	£1.45	85p	70
Parall Washing up liquid	95p	75p	27
Tesco Handwash/soap	£1.49	47p	217
Sainsbury's Washing up liquid	89p	15p	493
Sainsbury's Moisturising Handwash/4 economy soaps	£1.49	33p	351

bacterial agent costs £1.35. Sainsbury's 10 All Purpose cloths cost 49p, or £1.59 with anti-bacterial protection.

"Ordinary detergents are perfectly adequate," said Janice Allen of the National Consumer Council. "If you stick to the normal hygiene rules in the kitchen then there isn't any need to use them."

Stuart Coverley of the National Federation of Consumer

Groups said: "Consumers are being unnecessarily overcharged. They're being taken for a ride."

But despite the money spent on the products, official figures from the Public Health Laboratory Service show that the number of food poisoning cases has tripled in the past 10 years, with 100,000 cases reported in 1998.

The market for household

anti-bacterial cleansers, first introduced 12 years ago, is the fastest-growing sector of the £140m domestic surface cleaning products market. It is estimated that consumers spend more than £35 million a year on these anti-bacterial products.

"We'd like to see a closer monitoring of this rapidly growing market, and hope that a new European Union directive, the Biocidal Products Directive, will deliver this," said Charlotte Gann, editor of *Health Which?*

"But ultimately this is a whole new market we can do without."

The research published in *Nature* has shown that *E. coli* bacteria, one of the most common causes of food poisoning, could acquire resistance to triclosan's effects through a comparatively simple mutation.

"It works by inhibiting a key metabolic pathway involving a particular enzyme," said Professor David Rice of the University of Sheffield's molecular biology department.

"In that sense it is acting as an anti-biotic would. That means anti-biotic-type resistance could arise."

Widespread use since the chemical was introduced could also have led people to rely too heavily on it, he added.

"There's no doubt people are worried about getting bacterial infection, but basic hygiene procedures are often more than enough."

Well-bred strawberries taste sweeter

A STRAWBERRY by a number of different genes could taste rather sweeter, according to British scientists who have isolated the elements that give the fruit its taste, smell and colour.

A team at the Horticulture Research International in Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, plans to create varieties of the fruit that will taste sweeter and richer and be more fragrant.

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

But - mindful of the future over genetically modified crops - they will try to achieve this using conventional plant breeding methods.

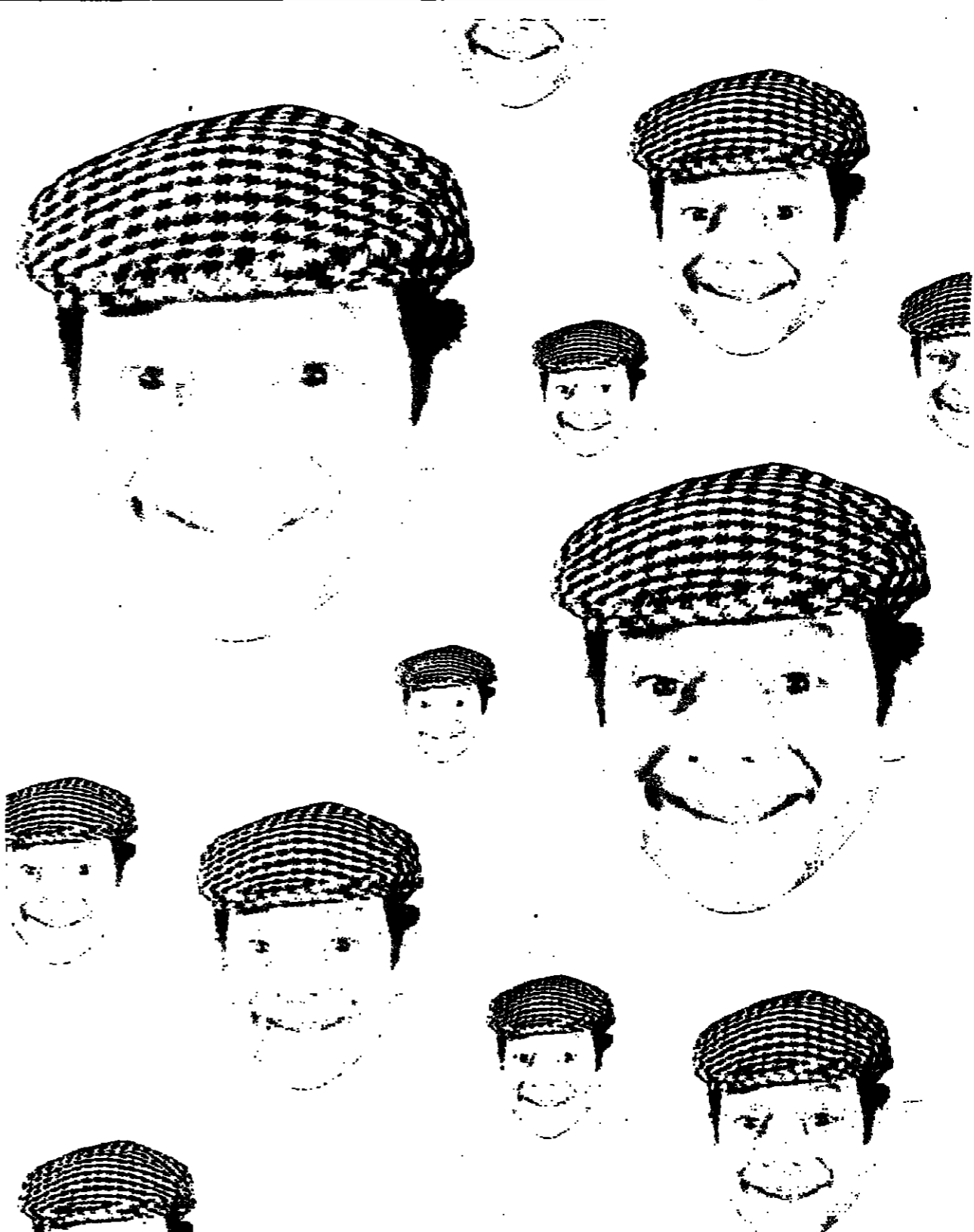
They will use modern technology, though, by following molecular markers that indicate which varieties of the fruit produced by crossing have the

required flavour genes. Manipulating such genes by natural processes could produce useful fruit more quickly than genetic engineering, suggests Ken Manning, who led the research. "There are at least 280 different compounds involved in the aroma alone," he said.

The key to a sweeter strawberry consists of regulating the production - or "expression" - of a protein that passes

sugar into the fruit cells from the plant's phloem, its equivalent of blood vessels.

"The whole basis of fruit ripening is to make it tasty enough to ensure seed disposal," he said. "But if the gene which makes the [sugar-dumping] protein were overexpressed, we could raise the amount of sucrose coming into the fruit, which would result in a sweeter strawberry."



APRIL FOOLS AND HORSES DAY

Tonight from 7pm.

A whole evening of Only Fools and Horses.

UK GOLD

TV you want to see again and again

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

**We won't
be beaten
on price.**

SAVE
£50

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

*On all PCs and printers over \$250. Credit Protection Insurance (CPI) is optional and will protect your payments in case of accident, unemployment or illness. CPI is not included in the monthly repayments unless otherwise stated. TYPICAL EXAMPLE: (Without CPI) Cash Price £699. No Deposit and 48 monthly payments of £24.69 = total payable £684.36 approx. 2001-96 Minimum purchase £250 subject to status. Written quotations available from: Dept MK/PCN, Midlands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 2TE. The Intel Inside logo, Pentium, Celeron and MMX are Registered Trademarks of the Intel Corporation. "GOZZILLA" and the character design are the trademarks of © TOHO LTD. 1998 TOHO CO. Ltd., Osaka Japan. Pictures Inc. All Rights Reserved. *Shared with main system memory. Ask in-store for details. Slight value reduction on shipping and handling charges at £4.99. **£198 inc. VAT.

هكذا من الرجل

SOMETIMES
IT'S EASIER
TO TALK
TO SOMEONE
YOU
DON'T LIKE.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EDWARD SYKES

A REGISTERED CHARITY



If you tell your
girlfriend,
will she think
less of you?

When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is the very problem you want to discuss.

That's where The Samaritans can be useful. We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

Our national number is 0345 90 90 90, and you can e-mail us on jo@samaritans.org or visit our homepage at www.samaritans.org. We're available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us – any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone.

Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

The Samaritans
We'll go through it with you.

Today, t

HS facine
vout to v



changes in c
nd 'postcode

Today, two million will be better paid

THE FIRST national minimum wage in British history will be introduced today amid demands that it should be raised by more than 25 per cent.

It is now illegal for any organisation to pay employees aged 22 and over less than £3.60 an hour, but the country's biggest union and the Labour Party's largest single financial backer are calling for a minimum wage of £5.

The Trade and Industry minister Ian McCartney described the law as a "massive step forward" for the low-paid. "It will be a real plus for two million people. Another plus is that so many employers support it". Mr McCartney knows that was not always the case. He was sacked on the spot from his job as a young chef at a hotel near Glasgow when he asked for an extra £1 on his £7.35-a-week wage.

Some unions are still unhappy, however. A motion tabled for the annual conference of Unison, the public service union with 1.4 million members, says the new statutory wage "makes a mockery" of the principle of a national minimum wage and that the rate would "perpetuate poverty". A proposition tabled by Unison's national executive insists the rate should be struck at half male median earnings, which it rounds up to £5.

The union's executive also declares its opposition to "discriminatory" rates for young people. A rate of £3 applies to those aged 18 to 21 and the law does not apply to under-18s.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, said his organisation would be pressing ahead with a "Living Wage" rally in Newcastle on 10 April in protest at the £3.60 floor. He said the law would not cure the "blight" of low pay.

The GMB general union pointed out that most employers were ignoring the differential pay rate for young people.

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Both McDonald's and Burger King, which have come under fire for allegedly exploiting youngsters, are paying the full adult rate to all employees.

The Labour Research Department has found few large firms that will be paying younger staff less. For example, the hotel group, is an exception, paying £3.30 for employees aged 18 to 21. Poundstretcher, the discount store, confirms that the under-22s will receive less than £3.60, the department said.

Stuart Chilton, spokesperson for the GMB young members' section, welcomed McDonald's decision to disregard the lower minimum. He said the 60 pence an hour amounted to £24 a week and was "vital" to the budgets of young staff. The Low Pay Commission, which had advised the Government on the rate, had been wrong to encourage "age discrimination".

Official figures show that more than two million workers are likely to have pay increases because of the new law, but many employers have uprated wage rates well ahead of today.

Pub chains, charities, cinemas and manufacturing firms are among employers that have increased pay to comply with the legislation, according to Income Data Services (IDS) in a report published yesterday.

The research group believes there is little evidence that the wage requirement will hit employment. Jobs in the service sector, seen as most vulnerable, continue to increase, with 100,000 new positions in hotels and restaurants in the past year, IDS reports.

The findings conflict with the results of research conducted by Business Strategies, which predict that the minimum wage would cost more than 10,000 jobs in the South-east over the next two to three



Marion Holden, of the Sea & Horses guesthouse: 'Tourism is down, so I can't raise my room rates' Paul Armiger

Hard times in low-wage region

EYEBROWS WERE raised at the Jobcentre in Redruth, Cornwall, yesterday. The positions advertised were all at or above £3.60 an hour, a rarity for Britain's lowest-paid county.

They were accompanied by a notice saying that from today only jobs paying the new minimum wage would be posted. Cornwall's jobless have been used to hourly rates as low as £2.

One man on the Government's New Deal programme was too scared to give his name in case potential employers saw his comments and changed their minds about hiring him. "Work has become so precious down here that no one is willing to risk anything. You have to be a lapdog, you have to do exactly what people tell you or you lose out on the smallest of job opportunities."

The local jobless rate is about 7 per cent, well above the national average. A report by the business analysts Dun and Bradstreet found the number of businesses failing in the South-west within the first three months increased in the past year from 973 to 1,365. Another 99 people joined the St Austell dole queue when a factory making shirts for Marks & Spencer laid them off. And if further proof were needed, the county has just been granted "Objective One" status, class-

BY MATTHEW BRACE

ifying it as one of the poorest areas in the European Union.

Nigel Costly, regional secretary of the South-west TUC, said: "There have been some shocking rates of pay. Some retail workers are still being paid £1 an hour, picking cauliflowers only pays about £1.40, and we found a nightshift worker getting £15 for a seven-hour shift."

Stephanie, 24, who has two children, is living on the breadline. "I earn £2 an hour cleaning families' houses. The minimum wage means nothing to me - these families say they'll only put my money up to £2.25. They can always get someone else in for even less."

Louise Southwell, 26, a graduate, is struggling to pay off a £10,000 college debt on a salary of £8,500. "The minimum wage is long overdue but I think there could be a lot of pressure on people from employers to keep quiet or lose their jobs," she said.

Times are also tough for employers. Marion Holden, landlady of a Penzance guesthouse, said: "I'm not against the minimum wage in principle, but it is very hard for the employer. Tourism is down, everyone is going abroad, so I can't offset that cost by raising my room rates."

NHS facing £40m payout to women

BY BARRIE CLEMENT

HUNDREDS OF thousands of women workers stand to benefit from a landmark case in which female health staff have been awarded compensation for being denied access to a bonus scheme.

The case, involving Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust, will put pressure on employers to ensure that women who undertake work of equal value to men should also have access to extra payments.

Officials at the GMB general union believe the settlement covering 200 domestic and catering staff could lead to some 50,000 health service workers receiving lump sums and wage rises costing the NHS up to £40m.

But the case will have implications for the whole of British industry where jobs occupied predominantly by women are routinely excluded from bonus arrangements.

More than 200 women at the trust will receive compensation of up to £3,000 and pay rises of up to 11 per cent as part of an out-of-court settlement.

The women established they were doing jobs of equal value to their predominantly male col-



Emily Waller: 'No-win situation for management'

leagues who work as porters, but that they were earning up to 11 per cent less because they were not paid bonuses.

Brian Stratton of the GMB said the case had national implications, and the union would be working to close pay gaps in other trusts. "Where we can, we will negotiate to secure equal pay," he said. "Where we cannot bargain for equality we will have no hesitation in pursuing other tribunal claims." Other cases are in the pipeline involving NHS trusts at Glasgow, Newcastle upon Tyne, Doncaster, Leeds and Airedale.

Derek Cattell, the GMB officer who negotiated the agreement, described it as historic.

He said: "There is a forgotten Cinderella army of NHS workers who are largely ignored and have been consistently discriminated against by the management of the health service."

One of the beneficiaries of the agreement, Emily Waller, a chef at Hartlepool General Hospital, said: "We argued that our work is of equal value so we should get the [bonus] money as well. At first the management said no, but they realised they were in a no-win situation so they started to make offers. They were stunned when they realised how much it was going to cost them. Hopefully this will now open the floodgates for workers in other NHS trusts."

Mrs Waller, 56, who earns £5 an hour, estimated that workers would receive pay rises of between £9 and £18 a week, which could add as much as £400,000 to the trust's pay bill.

Ian Palfreeman, head of human resources at the Hartlepool and East Durham trust, said the deal, which comes into force today, would be self-financing through increased productivity and no money would be diverted from patient care. The trust was committed to equal opportunities and was happy to conclude the deal.

Changes in care may end 'postcode lottery'

WOMEN WITH ovarian cancer are likely to be among the first beneficiaries of a series of changes to the NHS.

Yesterday marked the end of GP fundholding and the beginning of a huge transfer of power and resources from hospitals to family doctors, backed by a series of measures designed to increase quality in the NHS.

The most important of these is the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (Nice), a national agency introduced to appraise new treatments and ensure those that are valuable are spread around the NHS. Taxol, the drug for advanced ovarian cancer that has been the focus of allegations of "postcode prescribing", is expected to be one of the first to be considered by the agency.

Ministers have said they expect Nice to give "a big nod" to Taxol, which some health

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

authorities have refused to supply because of its £8,000-a-year cost per patient. The drug has been shown in trials to extend survival by 12 months. Patients in neighbouring streets but differing health authorities have found while one has got it free on the NHS, the other has had to pay for it, exposing local inequalities in provision.

Nice, which is expected to issue its first guidance in the autumn, will look at the cost as well as the effectiveness of new treatments and surgical techniques and is seen by doctors as a tool for rationing NHS care. Ann Widdicombe, shadow Health Secretary, said its principal aim would be to control costs. But Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for

Health, said that for the first time, doctors in the NHS would be given authoritative advice on the best treatments.

"It will bring an end to a situation where adjacent health authorities look at different evidence in different ways and come to different conclusions," Mr Dobson said.

Quality of care will also be monitored by the new Commission for Health Improvement, an NHS inspectorate that will ensure hospitals are implementing a system of "clinical governance" - checking standards of care and identifying poor doctors.

The biggest change, however, is the abolition of GP fundholding and its replacement by 481 "primary care groups" - local groups of GPs and nurses - who will have responsibility for spending 90 per cent of the NHS's resources.

The Link

LOWEST EVER PEAK CALL RATE

IDEAL FOR BUSINESS

ONE 2 ONE PRECEPT 100 FEATURES:

- Local peak calls only 5p per minute (Monday - Friday 7am - 7pm)*
- 100 minutes of calls every month for only £25
- FREE VoiceMail retrieval
- FREE second priority line, allows important calls to get through

ERICSSON EFR COMPATIBLE ONE 2 ONE DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- EFR is the latest digital sound technology - it makes calls as clear as your home phone line
- 199 name and number memory
- Send and receive short text messages
- Up to 210 minutes talktime/48 hours standby

Model: 768
Was £49.99*
SAVE £10*

INCLUDES HANDS-FREE KIT

£39.99*

Plus £35 for Connection

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST CHOICE	IMPARTIAL EXPERT ADVICE	UNBEATABLE PRICES	OVER 170 STORES NATIONWIDE
Over 50 mobiles	We will help you choose the right network, tariff and handset	You won't find a better price*	Freephone 0500 222 666 for your nearest store or to order direct

THE EASY ROUTE TO THE RIGHT MOBILE

*When you take out a new contract on a One 2 One Monthly tariff. Line rental starts from £17.50 per month. If you find a better price elsewhere within 7 days, we will refund the difference. *Excludes 100 minutes of calls every month. See website for details. Connection to mobile phones is subject to status. A deposit may be required. Ask in-store for details.

The Great Fiesta April Sale

Great savings on Ford Fiestas* and a great range of financial packages. Be there first.



Finesse £7,650[†], Zetec £8,600[†], LX £8,750[†] & Ghia £10,450[†]

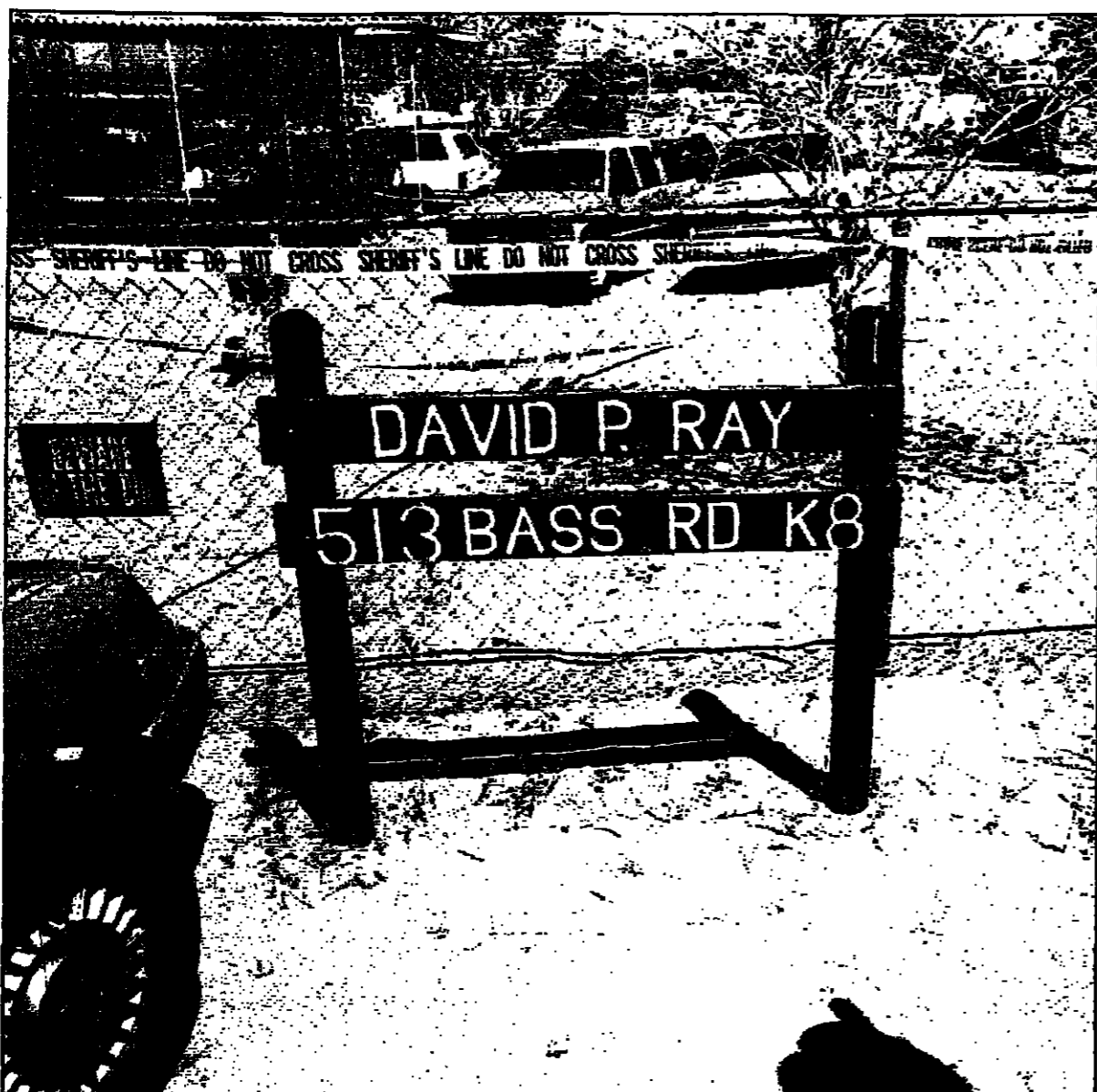
*Ford Fiestas built before Feb 22nd 1999

- 0% finance • 8.9% APR on *Options* • 8.9% APR Conditional sale plus one years free insurance

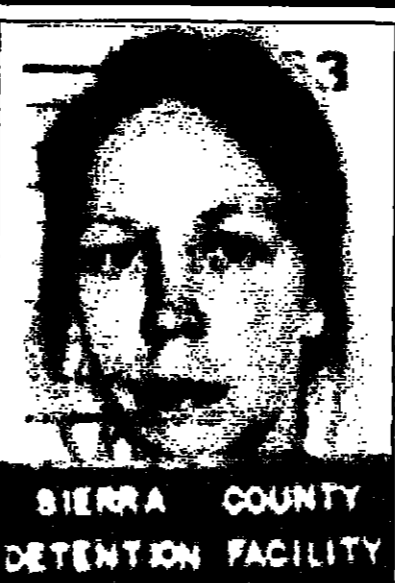
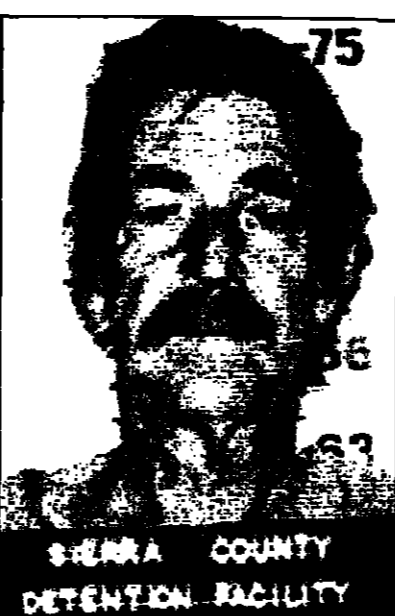


Subject to availability. Some models in limited supply. Savings based on January 4th 1999 on the road prices as follows. [†]Fiesta 1.3 3 door Finesse was £8,550; Fiesta 1.25 3 door Zetec was £9,550; Fiesta 1.25 3 door LX was £10,050; Fiesta 1.25 5 door Ghia was £12,050. 12 months free insurance and 0% APR finance (minimum 50% deposit), subject to conditions. Finance and insurance subject to status. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. Written quotations available on request. Freepost FCE Bank PLC. The vehicle shown is a Fiesta Zetec 3 door with optional metallic paint. On the road April Sale price £8,850.

صكزا من الاصل



A trailer-park sign outside the New Mexico home of David Parker Ray (top right) and his alleged accomplice Cindy Lea Hendy (below), who are accused of kidnapping and rape. FBI agents believe they are investigating a case of serial torture and possibly murder. AP



Police hunt for bodies in US sex-torture case

A NAKED young woman ran for her life down a lonely road in New Mexico with a padlocked collar around her neck. She told police she had been abducted by a couple in a trailer park, tortured with bizarre electrical and medical instruments for three days and subjected to sexual humiliation and rape.

Yesterday, nearly 100 FBI agents were at work in three different states uncovering what they believe is a case of serial torture, and possibly murder, on a horrifying scale. David Parker Ray and his girlfriend Cindy Lea Hendy, who are in custody pending bail of \$1m each, have been interrogated by police investigators and no fewer than three behavioural experts in an effort to discover the extent of their alleged crimes.

"It has national implications.

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

We literally have 100 leads and 1,000 pieces of evidence. This investigation is expanded throughout the country," the director of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Darren White, told a news briefing in the small tourist town of Truth or Consequences, now the nerve centre of the police operation.

Mr Ray, a 59-year-old mechanic with the state parks department, and Ms Hendy, 39, were originally held on 12 charges including kidnapping, criminal sexual penetration and conspiracy, but this week state prosecutors laid another 25 charges, relating to an attack on at least one other woman.

FBI and local police are

seeking to link them to crimes in Phoenix and Tucson in Arizona, El Paso and Victoria in Texas, and Juarez, Mexico. Officials have been reluctant to release details of the wider investigation for fear of jeopardising the case.

The woman aged 22 who ran naked down the road in Elephant Butte, the small community near Truth or Consequences where the suspects lived, was found with cuts, bruises and bumps on her head, welts on her back and small puncture wounds on her breasts.

According to the criminal complaint, the woman was lured inside the camper van of Mr Ray and Ms Hendy after an introduction by a mutual acquaintance. Mr Ray flashed a badge at her and said she was

under arrest for prostitution. She was then handcuffed, driven back to the couple's trailer and bound to a bed. She was tied up, hung from the ceiling, whipped, given electric shocks via electrodes attached to her breasts, threatened with a revolver, raped and molested with sexual and medical objects.

She told police she escaped on the third day of her ordeal by striking Ms Hendy in the head with an ice-pick.

The police quickly swooped on the trailer, arrested Mr Ray and Ms Hendy, and found an assortment of torture devices as well as videos, which they said depicted the couple committing various crimes. They did not elaborate.

Earlier this week, a second woman came forward, saying she had been subjected to sim-

ilar torture over five days in February. She had visited the trailer to pick up some cake mix only to be stripped, bound and assaulted. She managed to negotiate her own release.

The case has stunned the local community, a quiet mountain region 150 miles south of Albuquerque. Over the weekend, there was talk of bones buried beneath the suspect couple's trailer but these turned out to be animal not human remains.

Police also scotched a rumour that a dozen bodies had been dredged out of Elephant Butte lake.

Friends of the couple have suggested they mutilated or killed up to six people. One said Ms Hendy went along with the crimes because they gave her an "adrenalin rush".

Couple gives up test-tube twin

IN THE LATEST twist to an astonishing test-tube baby case, New York woman who gave birth three months ago to twin boys of different colours - one white, one black - has agreed to give up the black child because she is not his biological mother.

"We are giving him up because we love him," said Donna Fasano, 37, in a statement issued through her lawyer.

Genetically, the boy is the child of Deborah Perry-Rogers and Robert Rogers, who are black and share his DNA. Ms Fasano gave birth to the Rogers' child because of alleged mistakes at a Manhattan fer-

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

tility clinic. The drama began on 24 April last year at the clinic of Dr Lillian Nash, when both Ms Fasano and Ms Perry-Rogers checked in for embryo implantations. What followed might be seen as a parable for what can go wrong when man interferes in the natural course of human reproduction.

As best as can be determined - the case is currently under investigation by the state of New York - there was a mix-up in embryos. Eggs had previously been extracted from both women. They were then

fertilised *in vitro* by their respective husbands in preparation for implantation in the uterus. The procedure is fairly common for couples having trouble with conceiving.

Somehow the eggs implanted in Ms Fasano included some of her own and some from the Perry-Rogers batch. Ms Perry-Rogers did not become pregnant after the procedure. But an amniocentesis examination of Ms Fasano some weeks later revealed the unexpected problem: she was carrying twins. They seemed healthy, but their genetics were entirely different.

The Fasanos knew nothing of their black baby's real par-

ents and, after the delivery last December, proceeded to raise both boys as their own.

"Both of these boys are beautiful," said Ivan Tantleff, Ms Fasano's lawyer. "They sit in the swing together. They sit in the tub together."

It was only two weeks ago, when the Rogers filed a lawsuit against Dr Nash and her clinic, that the identity of the child's genetic parents became known.

The decision to surrender the boy has been wrenching for Ms Fasano, who this week has been attempting to evade media attentions. "This wasn't my doing," she said. "People with infertility problems should

be able to go to their doctors and trust them to do the right thing. To them it may be a job; to me it's my life."

Though there is heartbreak all around, what has happened has also been a miracle. The Rogers were still unable to reproduce even with the clinic's help. Thanks to human error - and thanks to the unwitting help of Ms Fasano - they will now have a child.

Lawyers said that the black couple harboured no ill-feelings toward Ms Fasano and said they expected visiting rights to be arranged so that the twins will be able to maintain contact with one another.

IN BRIEF

Members finally ratify EU treaty

THE AMSTERDAM Treaty, the European Union's new constitution, has finally been ratified by all 15 EU countries and will come into force on 1 May. It has taken more than a year for all EU national parliaments to ratify the new treaty, which amends the 1957 founding treaty of Rome by lifting internal border controls.

Lift-off for Berlin's new airport

PLANS FOR a new airport in Berlin won government approval yesterday. Germany plans to shut two of Berlin's airports - Tegel and Tempelhof - and consolidate air traffic into a single hub at Schoenefeld, which it will expand at a cost of 7 billion marks (\$2.4bn).

Villagers stone couple to death

MURDER CHARGES have been filed against 15 villagers accused of stoning to death a young couple in the northern Indian state of Haryana. The couple had run away together and refused to disavow their ties. They were killed on Tuesday and their bodies cremated.

Five massacred in gang war

THREE masked killers shot five men lunching in a Warsaw restaurant yesterday in what police called the city's worst gang war mass murder. The victims included powerful criminal kingpins. The killers escaped.

Election of trade head postponed

ENVOYS TO the World Trade Organisation suspended the election of a new director-general until next week. Envoys were told there were "serious difficulties" in securing the post for either of the two main candidates.

Barak inches ahead in battle with Netanyahu

BY ERIC SILVER
in Jerusalem

ISRAEL GOES to the polls on May 17 with a record six candidates for prime minister and 33 parties - including Greens, Pensioners and "Prima Rosenblum", a women's rights party led by a former beauty queen of that name - fighting for 120 Knesset seats.

When nominations closed at midnight on Tuesday, the prime ministerial challengers included a first Arab contender, Azmi Bishara, who is an iconoclastic philosophy professor and staunch Palestinian nationalist, and Yosef Bagad, an eccentric, charismatic rabbi, neither of whom has any chance. Of the four credible candidates, opinion polls suggest neither Yitzhak Mordechai, of the new Centre Party, nor the far right's Benny Begin will win more than 20 per cent of the vote.



Ehud Barak (left) is the strong Labour challenger to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Likud Prime Minister



It looks likely to be a contest between the Likud incumbent, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Labour challenger, Ehud Barak, though they may have to go to a second round on June 1 if neither tops 50 per cent first time.

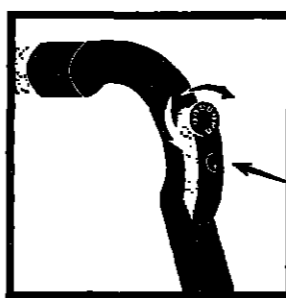
Polls point to a tight finish, with Mr Barak inching ahead.

Mr Netanyahu's campaign has failed to lift off. His party is short of money. A week after Mr Barak launched his bid, the Likud has not yet held an opening rally.

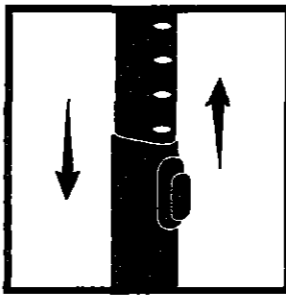
The party's prospects do not look good. The latest polls give Likud 20 seats, compared with the 32 won in 1996.

THINKING OF BUYING AN UPRIGHT ? THINK AGAIN!

Revolution



SUCTION CONTROL & BRUSHES ON/OFF SWITCH



HEIGHT ADJUSTABLE TELESCOPIC TUBE



ELECTRICALLY DRIVEN POWER BRUSH

THE BRUSHING ACTION OF AN UPRIGHT THE POWER AND CONVENIENCE OF A CYLINDER

Does your old upright struggle to clean under the bed? Do you have difficulty in vacuuming the stairs? Then why not choose The Revolution from Miele? Like an upright, it has an electrically driven power brush which can be switched on or off for thorough cleaning of all types of carpet. Like a cylinder, it can nip up the stairs and duck under furniture, or even go out to the garage to valet the car. It has powerful suction with controls at your finger-tips on the handle, and on-board tools to tackle upholstery and awkward corners. You can even adjust the suction tube to exactly the right height for you - and you can't do THAT with an upright!

TEST THE REVOLUTION AND YOU CAN WIN UP TO £2000 OF MIELE PRODUCTS

Miele

Anything else is a compromise

INFORMATION 01235 554455 BROCHURES 01235 554488

Available from Currys, John Lewis, House of Fraser, Powerhouse, Electricity Plus, Harrods, Selfridges and most leading electrical retailers.

A new nation is born in the frozen north

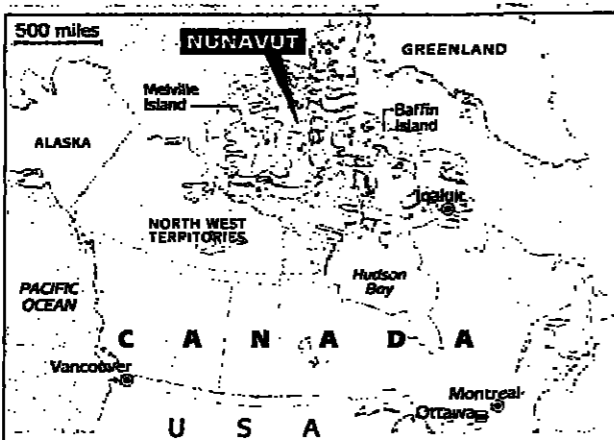
BY DAVID USBORNE

THINK YOU know your North American geography? This morning, you may have some catching up to do. At midnight last night, a new territory was born in Canada's northernmost reaches. It is called Nunavut and it is very large - about the size of Western Europe or ten times bigger than Britain.

But there are only 27,000 souls in this vast land of rocky outcrops and frozen tundra that stretches from Baffin Island in the Atlantic to Melville Island in the Beaufort Sea. Its 28 settlements, including the capital, Iqaluit, overlooking Frobisher Bay, all have to be reached by air - beyond them there are only 12 miles of road.

Nunavut, however, is significant for reasons other than size. Its creation is a bold experiment in returning both a measure of autonomy and of dignity to an aboriginal race that for generations has seen little of either. Four out of five of its residents are Inuit, formerly known as Eskimos. While still inside the Canadian federal system, the territory, from today, will have a parliament and its own government. Hence its name. In the Inuit language, Inuktitut, Nunavut means "Our Land".

It is change, moreover, that is kindling excitement in the



hearts of aboriginal peoples around the world, from the Maori of New Zealand to the Mohawk of New York. All will be watching closely to see how the Inuit manage their new freedoms in circumstances that will be far from forgiving. Nunavut is not just cold, its Inuit population struggles with some of the harshest socio-economic problems in Canada.

Already, it is a transition that arouses admiring astonishment. The creation of Nunavut comes after 15 years of talks and not one act of violence. Quebec's struggles with Anglophone Canada have lasted longer, yielding little fruit and much aggravation.

The last time Canada saw such a redrawing of its boundaries was on this day 50 years

ago, when Newfoundland elected to become the 10th Canadian province.

Carved out from the eastern half of the already-existing Northwest Territories, Nunavut is essentially a gesture of compensation to the Inuit for the years of interference from the white man. For centuries, the Inuit, who migrated east from Alaska about 1,000 years ago, were able to continue their completely nomadic life, hunting and living in tents and igloos. From the Fifties, however, the Canadian government forced the Inuit into permanent settlements and obliged their children to attend Christian schools. Many were taken away from their families.

What is left is a race brought low by social problems

Paul Oqulik, the Prime Minister of Nunavut in northern Canada, demonstrating his sledging skills

AFP

handed across from the invaders. Alcohol and drug abuse are rampant, the suicide rate is six times Canada's national average and unemployment is about 30 per cent. Moreover, scope for economic improvement is narrow. Options include eco-tourism and possible deals for seal-fur export.

The principal concern of the

Inuit in demanding their own territory was the restoration of their culture before it was obliterated entirely.

Inuktitut, for example, will again be taught to children in the territory's school. The only challenge will be finding enough people to teach it.

Celebrations were expected to last all day in Iqaluit, with traditional throat singing and Caribou roasts. The city, where few roads have names and recent warm weather has turned pavements to mud, has for the past few days been coping with an invasion of media from around the world. The town has no traffic lights, but boasts two tanning salons, a sports club and a weekly newspaper.

Inuit leaders, however, are wary of raising expectations too high. "You're trying to catch a bear for the first time and you wonder, 'How am I going to do this?'" said Peter Ernerk, who will be a deputy minister in the new government.

Mr Ernerk worries that the Inuit are going through changes at a pace that is hard to handle. "We've come from the igloo to the high-rise in a very short time."

Bloody end to Uzbek hijack

BY TIMOFEI ZHUKOV
in Tashkent

POLICE IN Uzbekistan stormed a hijacked bus yesterday in an operation that killed two hostages, four police officers and three armed hijackers, officials said.

There were at least 24 passengers aboard the bus, which was travelling from the city of Khorezm in the south of the country to the capital, Tashkent, when five unidentified gunmen seized it on Tuesday night. The gunmen then contacted the authorities and demanded the release of fellow militants, who had been charged over a spate of car bombings outside government buildings in Tashkent last month that killed 15 people.

Special security troops stopped the bus near the town of Sarimoi-Chu yesterday and tried to seize the hijackers. Two passengers were killed, as were three security troops, one traffic policeman and three of the gunmen, a statement by the prosecutor-general said. One gunman was arrested but the statement did not give the whereabouts of the fifth.

The Uzbek President, Islam Karimov, blamed last month's bombings on Islamic extremists. Police have arrested a dozen suspects in Uzbekistan and two other former Soviet republics, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Mr Karimov is, like most Uzbeks, a Muslim. However, his insistence on keeping the country secular has put him at odds with fundamentalist Islamic groups.

The bus hijacking came hours after a police clash on Tuesday with a group of gunmen suspected of involvement in the bombings.

A resident of an apartment building in Tashkent told police about a group of men living in the block who resembled police sketches of the suspected bombers. When police visited the flat in question, its occupants opened fire, badly wounding an officer. Three gunmen were killed in the ensuing gun battle, and another three, police said, blew themselves up using their own explosives. (AP)

Human death toll rises despite slaughter of pigs

THE SLAUGHTER of more than a million pigs continued yesterday, as five more people died of swine-borne viruses that have claimed 76 lives and ruined farmers in Malaysia.

Like nearly all the previous victims, the latest casualties were pig farmers from the central state of Negeri Sembilan.

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

where two separate viruses have created panic in a country still recovering from the effects of the Asian economic crisis. Earlier this week, Malaysian cabinet ministers suggested that "foreign elements" had engineered the

epidemics in an attempt to sabotage Malaysia's economy.

The government has dispatched soldiers and police in plastic body suits to exterminate 1.3 million pigs to prevent the viruses spreading. But in the past 12 days, shooting has killed fewer than 200,000, prompting the government to

consider electrocution or gassing to speed the process.

The deaths are believed to have been caused by Japanese encephalitis, and a new strain of the Hendra virus. Encephalitis is harboured by pigs, and passed on to humans via the Culex mosquito. But blood samples analysed in the US

have shown infection by the Hendra virus, which is said to be transmitted through direct contact with the blood, urine or faeces of infected swine.

Victims of both viruses suffer aches and high fever, leading, when untreated, to coma, brain inflammation and death. The outbreak has devastat-

ed the country's \$400m (£240m) pork industry, which employs 300,000 people.

The situation is complicated by the ambiguous position that pigs occupy in Malaysia. The industry is dominated by ethnic Chinese, who eat a lot of pork. But to Muslim Malays, the majority, the pig is an unclean animal. Scenes featuring pigs are sometimes censored from films and television.

Some Muslims have refused to have injections against encephalitis, believing that the vaccine contains pig-derived products. Muslim scholars have tried to reassure them that the vaccinations are acceptable.

malaga
from £120rtn

faro
from £120rtn

newcastle
from £89rtn

london
from £89rtn

go™ with us to four new places

go 0845 60 54321

minimum 2 night stay book online at www.go-fly.com
the new low cost airline from british airways

Save a third on fish at Sainsbury's.

Other offers available on a selection of pre-packed and counter fish.

Sainsbury's **VALUE** TO SHOP ABOUT

OFFERS END 10TH APRIL 1999. ALSO AVAILABLE AT SAINSBURY'S SAVCENTRES. PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. OFFERS EXCLUDE SAINSBURY'S 'LOCAL' STORES. SOME LINES AVAILABLE AT LARGER STORES ONLY. WE'D BE INTERESTED IN YOUR COMMENTS. www.sainsburys.co.uk

WIN OSC BEST P

ACTRESS - Gwyneth Paltrow
BEST SCREENPLAY - Mike Newell
DIRECTOR - Steve Cable

HAKESPEA

JOSEPH FENNES
LOW SHOWING ACRO

صكزا من الاصل



John Ward (right) indicating for the court where his daughter's vehicle was found abandoned in the Masai Mara game reserve *Reuters*

Father takes court to scene of Ward murder

STANDING IN Sand River Camp where his daughter, Julie, was last seen alive, John Ward exercised characteristic restraint as he described where she pitched her tent by a bend in the river more than 10 years ago.

Mr Ward led the group of lawyers and secretaries, and the Land Rover carrying the judge and the court clerk, down to the river bank — “watch out for snakes” — then gave his evidence with little prompting.

He is an expert witness in so many ways — a father, a member of the search party, a collector of evidence, a special investigator — so that often he nods and sounds as if he were simply dictating a well-told story. His many roles are

BY LUCY HANNAN
in Sand River, Masai Mara

seen as a weakness by the defence, and a strength by the prosecution.

Later, when pointing out the site where Julie's partially burnt remains were found – the lower leg, a jaw bone and a lock of hair – the amount of control required proves more difficult. He glares at the man accused of killing his daughter; Simon Makalla, former chief warden at the Masai Mara game park. There is a lot he wants to say, but the prosecution is limited to pointing out the sites and distances rather than narrating events.

But before leaving for the Masai Mara, Mr Ward described

to the court in Nairobi how he found the remains on 13 September 1988 in a remote, bushy area - "I was taken a few paces to where a lower left leg was lying in the grass, badly burnt. The sole showed no sign of burning, the top of the leg had been separated from the upper leg."

He used a bottle to demonstrate the injuries. His normally authoritative voice wavered, and he gripped the side of the witness box and bough rare tears.

"I was in shock, it was a horror scene I had witnessed, and at first I could form no impression of the events. Shortly after, I did."

Convening the High Court at the site of a murder is "very unusual", concedes Salim Dhanji, for the prosecution, but he in-

ists it is necessary for the judge and the assessors - who have a role similar to a jury - to appreciate the vast distances.

The improbability of Mr Makallah finding Julie Ward's remains so quickly and so accurately in rough and remote terrain is the basis of a prosecution case that depends on circumstantial evidence.

"My lord, can we keep our hats on?" asks the prosecution lawyer in the searing heat, as the court gathers awkwardly around the judge on a precipitous gully, where Julie's Suzuki vehicle was found.

Vultures above complete the scene - but protocol is studiously adhered to, though the wigs and robes are left behind

in favour of safari suits and straw turbans.

Disabled from birth and reliant on crutches, Judge Aganyanya has made a huge effort to oblige. He was flown to the site in a military helicopter and holds court through the passenger window of a white government Land Rover at the various sites.

Simon Makallah - who writes copious notes - takes advantage of the trip to his home and, pacing out the gully crossings and consulting his lawyer, Pravin Bhowry.

A Masai himself, the park was Mr Makallah's kingdom as chief warden. The Masai community has rallied to pay his defence, treating the accusation as a collective insult.

Religious strife wakes ghost of Nenek Luhu

FRONTLINE
AMBON, INDONESIA

DRIVE UP the mountain above Ambon, and after half an hour you come to the village of Soya Atas where breezes take the edge off the heat, and where nothing seems less likely than the *killing and terror in the town* below. In Ambon, Christians and Muslims have burnt out one another's places of worship; but in Soya, the old cream-coloured church still sits peacefully in the square beneath its newly restored roof. Down below, people stay indoors and taxi drivers are afraid to work after dark.

Up here though, children play in front of the neat, old wooden houses, and idle along the path up to the peak. But however tranquil it may appear now, Soya is on a frontline of its own – a place of supernatural, rather than physical, confrontation.

Ruben Rehattia, the raja of Soya, is reluctant to discuss it at first, but happy to talk about the history of this ancient area. Centuries ago, before the arrival of Europeans, the small island of Ambon was a kingdom and Soya was its heart. Political power has long leaked away – despite his grandiose title, Raja Rehattia is officially little more than just another village head. But spiritually, and despite the presence of Christianity, this is still the richest, most powerful and most dangerous part of the island, the home of Ambon's most famous and potent ghost, Nenek Luhu.

"Nenek Luhu," says the raja. "How do you know about Nenek Luhu?" I read him the brief passage from my guidebook and he chuckles at its inaccuracy. Long, long ago, he explains, Nenek was the seventh daughter of Soya's then raja, and the most beautiful maiden in the kingdom. Somebody fell in love with her – perhaps a young Dutch official of the colonial government.

Whoever he was, the affair was opposed by Nenek's father. As is the way in such tales, she died of a broken heart. Ever since, locals have

seen the ghostly figure of a woman - sometimes young and comely, sometimes old and grief-stricken - wandering the fringes of the village. And people have disappeared.

Max Manupatty, a civil servant in the Culture Ministry, says his father's grandmother met Nenek Luhu and conversed with her as they walked between two villages. Raja Renatta admits that his own mother had the same experience. "She was looking up at the church, and she had hair like gold." During colonial times, a prominent Dutch official named Limburg Stirum

MALAYSIA

BORNEO

INDONESIA

SULAWESI

Java Sea

FLORES

200 miles

AMBON

SERAM

Timor Sea

was visiting from the capital, Batavia, and vanished during a stay in Soya. For three days, on the story goes, the population was mobilised in a desperate search. He was found in an area that had been covered several times before, sunk into a deep trance. Only when the raja of that time gave him water from a sacred well did he return to himself.

Ambonese children are taught to be careful in Soya, or face painful consequences. You should never throw stones into the jungle," says the raja, "and when you've finished washing you have to be careful where you pour the water." Forty years ago, one visitor from the town was tricken with a hideously swollen scrotum. It seems that he was taken short and relieved himself in the jungle right on top of the tree where the spirit of Nene Luhu was invisibly resting.

One of the strangest cases

happened just last year when an anxious couple approached the raja. They were the parents of a little boy named Mixel who had disappeared. In increasing desperation, the mother had engaged the services of a medium. The man had entered a trance, and become possessed by the spirit and voice of a forceful old woman.

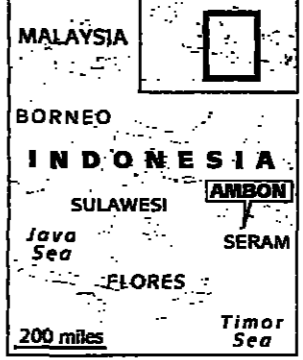
She said she became angry with Mixel after his playing disturbed her, but he was safe and her parents could be reunited with him if they followed a precise set of instructions. The first step was to find a man named Ruben Rehata, in Soya. They turned up and said, "You don't know us, but we have a message from Nenek Luhu," remembers Mr Rehata. "Well I could hardly believe it. I was scared."

The three of them drove as instructed to the town's naval base. They entered it by a certain gate, and searched out an old wartime pillbox built by the Japanese. They carried with them a broom, tobacco and betelnut. Mixel's mother prayed. They entered the abandoned pillbox. There was no one there.

At exactly that moment, Mixel's aunt was in the bus terminal in town when she felt a tap on the arm. It was the little boy, confused about what had happened to him, but none the worse for the experience. "Except," recalls the raja, "whenever he took a ooo, it smelled very bad."


That was more than a year ago. Nenek wasn't seen again until recently, after the religious killings began in the town and two Christian boys from a nearby village died in fight with Muslims. That night the ghost was seen again, in the guise of an old, old woman, walking in the dark as if seeking something. "What are you doing out so late?" they asked her, not realising who it was. The woman turned to them and said: "I'm looking for my sons."

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY



WINNER 7 OSCARS[®] INCLUDING BEST PICTURE

BEST ACTRESS - Gwyneth Paltrow • BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS - Judi Dench
BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY - Marc Norman/Tom Stoppard • BEST COSTUME DESIGN - Sandy Powell
BEST ART DIRECTION - Martin Childs/Jill Quertier • BEST ORIGINAL MUSICAL OR COMEDY SCORE - Stephen Warbeck



15 BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARD NOMINATIONS

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE¹⁵

GWYNETH PALTROW JOSEPH FIENNES GLOUFREY RUSH COLIN FIRTH BEN AFFLECK AND JUDI DENCH

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS A MARCUS NIMMINS PRODUCTION A FILM BY JOHN MAHONEY STARRING GWYNETH PALTROW JOSEPH FIENNES GLOUFREY RUSH COLIN FIRTH BEN AFFLECK AND JUDI DENCH
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE MARCH 1999
CASTING BY MARTIN DUFFY COSTUME DESIGNER SANDY POWELL MUSIC BY STEPHEN WARBECK EDITOR DAVID JARVIS
PRODUCTION DESIGNER MARTIN CHILDS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JILL QUERTIER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DAVID JARVIS AND GARY BARBER PRODUCED BY MARCUS NIMMINS
WRITTEN BY MARC NORMAN AND TOM STOPPARD BASED UPON THE PLAY BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
EXECUTED BY UNIVERSAL PICTURES
www.shakespeareinlove.com

Now Showing Across The Country

"THE ULTIMATE"

"POSSIBLY THE BEST VALUE IN THE WORLD"

The best system anywhere ? Probably...
Free Lifetime Internet access, absolutely.

The blisteringly fast Intel® Pentium® III Processor. The fantastic NEW VOODOO III 3000,
A Large 17" monitor And Quantex..... an unbeatable combination.

M45E : £999+VAT £1,173.83 INC vat

System Specifications

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 450MHz
- Intel SE440ZX AGPset
- 4th Generation DVD
- 128Mbyte Ultra Fast Memory
- 17" Digital Colour Monitor
- NEW VOODOO III 3000 16Mb Graphics Card
- Soundblaster AudioPCI Sound Card
- Non-Integrated Graphics or Sound
- FREE Lifetime Internet Access
- Mains Powered Speakers
- Microsoft Windows 98, Corel Office Suite 4
- 10.2 Gbyte Ultra ATA Hard Disk Drive
- USR V.90 Modem
- Year 2000 And 9999 Compliant
- Lifetime Technical Support 24 Hours Per Day...

EVERYDAY!

**M50E : As above but with a 500MHz processor
£1,199+VAT**

System shown contains upgraded speakers & monitor



0% Finance option

Call for special options:-

Special Bonus Pack, Monitors, Warranties
and Super Fast BT Highway Conversions,
Express Delivery

Fastest 3D Graphics In The World

A Recent Review In Personal Computer World (May '99 Issue)
Proclaimed The VOODOO 3 3000 - The Fastest 3D
Graphics Card In The Universe.

POWERED BY INTEL...

...DELIVERED BY QUANTEX

Why must you choose Quantex?

If you don't you will most certainly miss out. The NEW Voodoo III 3000 is at least twice as fast as a high end graphics card with two Voodoo II accelerators combined. This is truly a remarkable system at an unbelievable price. It's what you have come to expect from Quantex. Not only do we supply superb systems our technical support just came out TOP in a recent BBC survey.

www.qtx.uk
www.highway.bt.com To Order: **01438 224444** Fax: **01438 224224**



[illegible][illegible][illegible]

AVOID
PAYING MORE TAX THAN YOU NEED TO

**INVESTMENT – EVERY WEDNESDAY
BUSINESS REVIEW**

YOUR MONEY – EVERY SATURDAY

**MONEY – EVERY SUNDAY
WITH BUSINESS**

 **THE INDEPENDENT**

THE INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

livetti amministrativi

NOTICE OF VARIATION

2025 SAVINGS ACCOUNT

30 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT

20 DAY SAVINGS PLAN

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

 The McGraw-Hill Companies

che 11/15/50

52 Week					52 Week					52 Week				
High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg
ECONOMIC SERVICES														
954	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
955	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
956	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
957	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
958	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
959	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
960	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
961	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
962	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
963	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
964	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
965	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
966	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
967	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
968	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
969	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
970	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
971	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
972	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
973	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
974	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
975	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
976	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
977	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
978	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
979	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
980	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
981	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
982	380	Atlantic Richfield	40.75	+0.40	87	111	108	100	-0.10	25	24	24	24	+0.00
983	380													

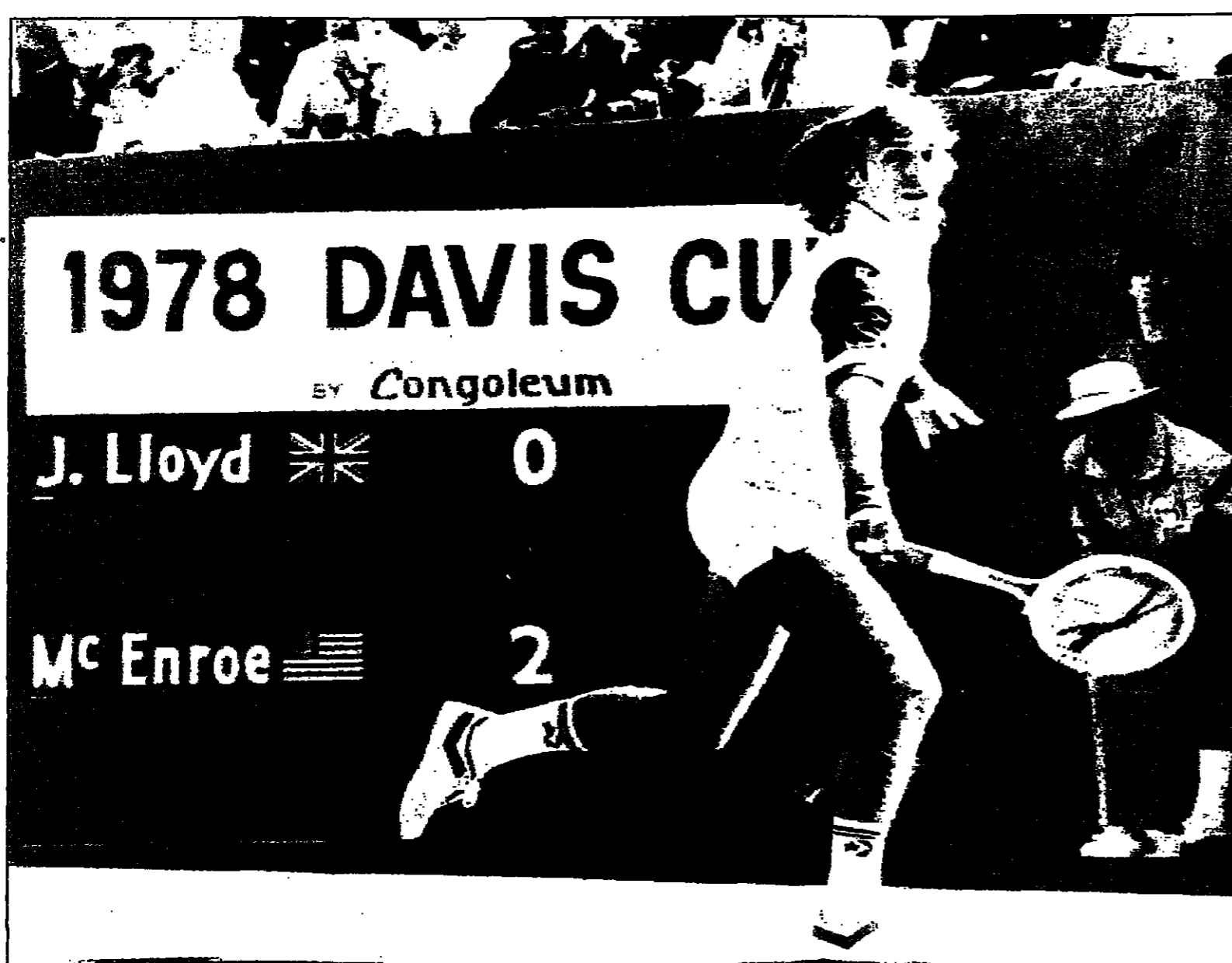
RISES				FALLS			
PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG		PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG	
Barclays	149.50	44.50	29.80	Alcatel	260.00	-93.00	-35.76
Barthelco UK	4.00	1.00	25.00	Alpha Arports	62.50	-50.00	-80.00
B&A Holdings	199.50	26.50	13.30	Stawley Lake	275.00	-75.00	-27.27
BM Group	830.50	93.00	11.00	Macquarie	107.50	-7.50	-6.98
British Power	216.00	21.00	10.00	Leeson	125.50	-5.00	-3.99
BT Telecom	111.00	100.00	9.00	Compucenter	665.00	-35.00	-5.26
Campanian Assurance	540.00	35.50	7.20	Ladbrokes	232.50	-25.00	-10.75
Carfax	1762.00	116.00	7.00	Arcafin	207.50	-11.00	-5.30
Cassidy Blair	314.00	7.50	2.40	Abert Fisher	5.00	-22.50	-45.00
Central Electric	299.50	25.00	8.68	Brit Air Trav	510.00	-24.50	-4.80
MARKET LEADER							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm							
Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.
British Telecom	38,500	British Telecom	14,150	Barclays Group	17,120	British Telecom	17,120
Anglo PLC	23,500	Shell Transport	16,150	Marlboro	11,200	Anglo PLC	11,200
Cellulose Group	15,070	British Telecom	13,500	British Telecom	11,110	Cellulose Group	11,110
BT	11,500	Cellulose Group	10,500	Anglo PLC	10,500	BT	10,500
BT Air Travel	10,500	Anglo PLC	10,500	Anglo PLC	10,500	Anglo PLC	10,500
RISERS AND FALLERS							
HOUR BY HOUR							
Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
113 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1065 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
114 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1066 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
115 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1067 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
116 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1068 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
117 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1069 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
118 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1070 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
119 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1071 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
120 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1072 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
121 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1073 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
122 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1074 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
123 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1075 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
124 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1076 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
125 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1077 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
126 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1078 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
127 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1079 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
128 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1080 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
129 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1081 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
130 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1082 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
131 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1083 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
132 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1084 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
133 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1085 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
134 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1086 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
135 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1087 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
136 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1088 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
137 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1089 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
138 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1090 Bank Stock	11.00	0.50	2.00
139 Bank Stock	150.00	0.50	2.00	1091 Bank Stock	11.00		

[illegible]

1000
 1001
 1002
 1003
 1004
 1005
 1006
 1007
 1008
 1009
 1010
 1011
 1012
 1013
 1014
 1015
 1016
 1017
 1018
 1019
 1020
 1021
 1022
 1023
 1024
 1025
 1026
 1027
 1028
 1029
 1030
 1031
 1032
 1033
 1034
 1035
 1036
 1037
 1038
 1039
 1040
 1041
 1042
 1043
 1044
 1045
 1046
 1047
 1048
 1049
 1050
 1051
 1052
 1053
 1054
 1055
 1056
 1057
 1058
 1059
 1060
 1061
 1062
 1063
 1064
 1065
 1066
 1067
 1068
 1069
 1070
 1071
 1072
 1073
 1074
 1075
 1076
 1077
 1078
 1079
 1080
 1081
 1082
 1083
 1084
 1085
 1086
 1087
 1088
 1089
 1090
 1091
 1092
 1093
 1094
 1095
 1096
 1097
 1098
 1099
 1100
 1101
 1102
 1103
 1104
 1105
 1106
 1107
 1108
 1109
 1110
 1111
 1112
 1113
 1114
 1115
 1116
 1117
 1118
 1119
 1120
 1121
 1122
 1123
 1124
 1125
 1126
 1127
 1128
 1129
 1130
 1131
 1132
 1133
 1134
 1135
 1136
 1137
 1138
 1139
 1140
 1141
 1142
 1143
 1144
 1145
 1146
 1147
 1148
 1149
 1150
 1151
 1152
 1153
 1154
 1155
 1156
 1157
 1158
 1159
 1160
 1161
 1162
 1163
 1164
 1165
 1166
 1167
 1168
 1169
 1170
 1171
 1172
 1173
 1174
 1175
 1176
 1177
 1178
 1179
 1180
 1181
 1182
 1183
 1184
 1185
 1186
 1187
 1188
 1189
 1190
 1191
 1192
 1193
 1194
 1195
 1196
 1197
 1198
 1199
 1200
 1201
 1202
 1203
 1204
 1205
 1206
 1207
 1208
 1209
 1210
 1211
 1212
 1213
 1214
 1215
 1216
 1217
 1218
 1219
 1220
 1221
 1222
 1223
 1224
 1225
 1226
 1227
 1228
 1229
 1230
 1231
 1232
 1233
 1234
 1235
 1236
 1237
 1238
 1239
 1240
 1241
 1242
 1243
 1244
 1245
 1246
 1247
 1248
 1249
 1250
 1251
 1252
 1253
 1254
 1255
 1256
 1257
 1258
 1259
 1260
 1261
 1262
 1263
 1264
 1265
 1266
 1267
 1268
 1269
 1270
 1271
 1272
 1273
 1274
 1275
 1276
 1277
 1278
 1279
 1280
 1281
 1282
 1283
 1284
 1285
 1286
 1287
 1288
 1289
 1290
 1291
 1292
 1293
 1294
 1295
 1296
 1297
 1298
 1299
 1300
 1301
 1302
 1303
 1304
 1305
 1306
 1307
 1308
 1309
 1310
 1311
 1312
 1313
 1314
 1315
 1316
 1317
 1318
 1319
 1320
 1321
 1322
 1323
 1324
 1325
 1326
 1327
 1328
 1329
 1330
 1331
 1332
 1333
 1334
 1335
 1336
 1337
 1338
 1339
 1340
 1341
 1342
 1343
 1344
 1345
 1346
 1347
 1348
 1349
 1350
 1351
 1352
 1353
 1354
 1355
 1356
 1357
 1358
 1359
 1360
 1361
 1362
 1363
 1364
 1365
 1366
 1367
 1368
 1369
 1370
 1371
 1372
 1373
 1374
 1375
 1376
 1377
 1378
 1379
 1380
 1381
 1382
 1383
 1384
 1385
 1386
 1387
 1388
 1389
 1390
 1391
 1392
 1393
 1394
 1395
 1396
 1397
 1398
 1399
 1400
 1401
 1402
 1403
 1404
 1405
 1406
 1407
 1408
 1409
 1410
 1411
 1412
 1413
 1414
 1415
 1416
 1417
 1418
 1419
 1420
 1421
 1422
 1423
 1424
 1425
 1426
 1427
 1428
 1429
 1430
 1431
 1432
 1433
 1434
 1435
 1436
 1437
 1438
 1439
 1440
 1441
 1442
 1443
 1444
 1445
 1446
 1447
 1448
 1449
 1450
 1451
 1452
 1453
 1454

SPORT

Tennis: When America and Britain meet, the absence of the era's top players, for whatever reason, is nothing new



Britain's John Lloyd (main picture) admitted he was 'made to look at idiot on court' by John McEnroe, making his Davis Cup debut, in the 1978 final in California. Britain's team (top, from left: Mark Cox, John Lloyd, Buster Mottram and David Lloyd) were so outplayed by America (Bob Lutz, Stan Smith, John McEnroe and Brian Gottfried) that after Mottram's victory over Gottfried they failed to win another set



Resisting the lure of Davis Cup

GREAT SPORTING events are made by those who choose not to be there. Enough ink and paper has been used to bemoan the absence of two of tennis's most famous players, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, from the American team to play Britain in the Davis Cup over three days starting tomorrow.

Sampras and Agassi have their own reasons for giving Birmingham a miss, and also for announcing that they will not be available for the official centenary match in Boston in July, whether the United States are involved in the quarter-finals or the qualifying round.

Multi-millionaire tennis players have a demanding schedule. Dwight Davis, the Harvard student from St Louis who donated the magnificent sterling silver trophy in 1899, and played in the early matches, would have understood that.

Wealthy to begin with, he led a busy life: developing the family business; setting unprecedented standards in public sports and recreational amenities as a park commissioner; serving as a major in the army in France in World War I, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism; strengthening America's military resources as President Coolidge's secretary of war; and earning respect as President Hoover's governor-general of the Philippines.

This is by no means the only occasion that prominent players have declined their services. It happened for the inaugural match in 1900 between the United States and the British Isles. The Doherty

BY JOHN ROBERTS

brothers, Reggie and Laurie, who between them held both the Wimbledon singles and doubles titles, did not play for the British Isles because they did not like ocean travel.

As the American author Nancy Kriplein points out in *Dwight Davis: The Man and the Cup*: "Several of the elements that had been factors in the outcome of the first Davis Cup competition would surface again and again in future cup challenges. Overconfidence, for instance, and dissatisfaction with the condition of the host country's courts, and possibly most important, the inability of a country (or its tennis association) to convince its leading players that they were needed and that patriotism outweighed personal convenience."

The British Isles team for the first match comprised Arthur Wentworth Gore, 32, "a striking instance of lawn tennis longevity", who went on to win Wimbledon in 1901, 1908 and 1909; Herbert Roper Barrett, 26, a London solicitor, who was noted for doubles play; and Ernest Black, a 27-year-old Scot who was the champion of Scotland and Yorkshire. Gore, the captain, was ranked No 5 in England, Black No 6, and Barrett No 13.

It was later said that selection had been affected by Britain's involvement in the Boer War; although their leading players, only Dr W V Eaves was serving in South Africa. (The Spanish-American War affected the careers of at least two experienced American players, Bill Larned and Bob Wrenn).

Before they left London,

Gore, Black and Barrett had lunch with the Lawn Tennis Association and were presented with white satin caps embroidered with the Royal Standard. The three arrived in New York aboard the Campania on 4 August, four days before the match was due to start. The Americans expected them to go straight to Boston to practise. Instead the visitors took a trip to Niagara Falls. It has been suggested that they thought the match was due to start two days later than the actual schedule.

It transpired that rain delayed the start for a day. The venue, Longwood, had an ominous ring. The Longwood Cricket Club had taken its name from an estate in Brookline belonging to the Sears family. In 1840, David Sears, Boston's richest citizen, named his new country place Longwood after the dilapidated house where his hero, Napoleon Bonaparte, died on St Helena.

Temperatures touched 136°F on court, and the visitors were bemused by the corkscrew

twist serves perfected by two of the Americans, Dwight Davis and Holcombe Ward, not to mention Malcolm Whitman's "rattlesnake". Although Black took the first set against Davis, the father of the competition went on to win, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4. Gore was overwhelmed by Whitman, 6-1, 6-3, 6-2.

As the "egg-shaped lump" left Whitman's strings, Gore swiftly switched his racket from one hand to the other. "Finally," the *Boston Morning Journal* reported, Gore "wound up by

letting the ball escape him altogether". The next day, Davis and Ward beat Black and Roper 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. The two "dead" singles rubbers were abandoned because of a thunder storm.

"The grounds were abominable," Gore wrote. "Picture to yourself a court in England where the grass has been the longest you ever encountered; double the length of that grass and you have the courts at Longwood at that time."

"The net was a disgrace to civilised lawn tennis, held up

guy ropes which were continually sagging... As for the balls... They were awful - soft and motherly - and when served with the American twist came at you like an animated egg-plum... We had never experienced this service before and it quite nonplussed us."

Gore did not find fault with everything, however. "The spectators were most impartial and the female portion thereof not at all unpleasant to gaze upon... The umpires, who sat on chairs perched on tables, and the linesmen discharged their duties most satisfactorily. Indeed, we had nothing to complain about in regard to American sportsmanship and hospitality..."

"I was only in America a week, and I often laugh to myself over the fact that I journeyed some 6,800 miles to play 30 games. I still do not grumble."

"There was no one else to represent England and I felt I had to go despite the inconvenience and personal expense to which we were put."

"Whitman, let me conclude, was one of the finest singles players I ever saw."

All at sea figuratively in 1900, the Lawn Tennis Association persuaded the Doherty brothers to cross the Atlantic for the second Davis Cup challenge in 1902 (Dr Joshua Pim, 33, from Ireland, was the third member of the team).

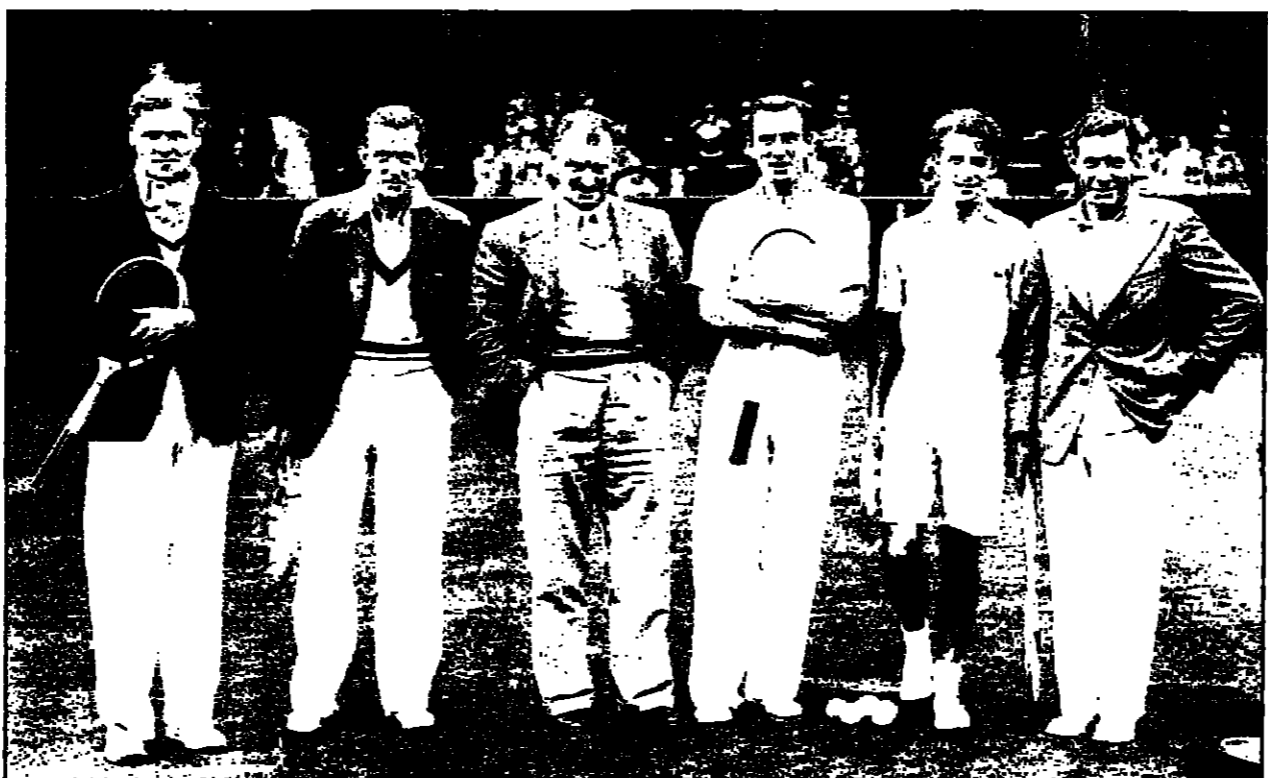
The tie was played in New York, the Americans winning, 3-2. The Dohertys returned to take the trophy with a 4-1 victory in 1903, the Americans gaining their solitary point by default (Reggie Doherty was injured and the home team

US V GB	
THE FIRST TIME (1900)	
Dwight Davis bt Ernest Black (GB) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-4	
Malcolm Whitman bt Arthur Gore (GB) 6-1, 6-3, 6-2	
Davis and Holcombe Ward bt Black and Herbert Roper Barrett, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4	
Davis led Gore, 9-7, 9-9 (unfinished)	
US bt British Isles 3-0 (Boston, Mass)	
THE LAST TIME (1978)	
John McEnroe bt John Lloyd (GB) 6-1, 6-2, 6-2	
Buster Mottram (GB) bt Brian Gottfried 4-6, 2-6, 10-8, 6-4, 6-3	
Bob Lutz and Stan Smith bt David Lloyd and Mark Cox (GB) 6-2, 6-2, 6-3	
McEnroe bt Mottram 6-2, 6-2, 6-1	
Gottfried bt John Lloyd 6-1 6-2, 6-4	
US bt Britain 4-1 (Palm Springs, Ca)	

refused to allow Harold Mahony to replace him).

Britain have defeated the United States seven times in 17 meetings, four of the triumphs having been recorded in the 1930s, the Fred Perry era. The last British win against the Americans was in the 1935 Challenge Round, a 5-0 whitewash, on the Centre Court at Wimbledon. Herbert Roper Barrett was Britain's captain.

David Lloyd, the current captain, and his brother John, the coach, played in the last match between the two countries, the 1978 final at Mission Hills Country Club in Palm Springs, California. Buster Mottram saved a match point before defeating Brian Gottfried. Britain did not win a set in the other four matches. John McEnroe made his Davis Cup singles debut, beating John Lloyd and Mottram. "I've never been made to look an idiot on court before," John Lloyd said. "Not by Borg, not by Connors, not by anyone until I played McEnroe today."



Britain's Davis Cup team of 1936 at Eastbourne (from left): C R D Tuckey, G P Hughes, Tom Whittaker, Fred Perry, H W Anstey and Dan Maskell. Whittaker was Arsenal football club's trainer, who was recruited to improve the tennis players' fitness for the tie against America

Lara justifies use of overused superlatives

ONE OF the things to be learned from Brian Lara's match-winning 153 against Australia in Barbados on Tuesday is that sportswriting is all too frequently debased by immoderate assessment.

Tremendous by any standards, thrilling, daring and gutsy in the face of Glenn McGrath's hostile fast bowling, Lara's innings justified all the superlatives showered on it from the commentary box by past cricketing heroes.

Impressions of class trip too lightly from the tongue in a sporting era when people use "great" for "average", "sensational" for "good", and "im-



KEN JONES

mortal" for "competent", but there was no rush of irritation here when Jeff Thomson declared that he had seen genius at work.

The more you think about

the circumstances of an effort that held me rivetted to Sky TV's transmission for four hours, the more you have to agree that Lara merited Thomson's estimation.

Until Lara compiled a double-century in the second Test to level the series he had not reached three figures for more than 12 months. He was held to account for the recent loss of all five Tests to South Africa. On Tuesday afternoon, Lara found himself at the crease with only four wickets left (although Jimmy Adams provided commendably stubborn resistance) and Australia's target a distant one.

Fearlessly, Lara took the initiative, cutting and driving to such effect that Australia's leg-spinners Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill were battered out of the action. With only two wickets in hand the West Indies were still 60 short but Lara got them there, victory completed with a flashing cover drive.

After a certain age, the heroes of our youth are always more mythic, larger than life, than those we acquire later on. You secretly think that Don Bradman and Denis Compton would have plundered today's bowling attacks. That Stanley Matthews and Tom Finney would have adjusted effort-

lessly to the pace of modern football. That Willie Pep would have made utter nonsense of Naseem Hamed's claim to be one of the great featherweight champions. Weren't the summers hotter, the winters colder, days longer, nights darker, then? Hasn't the world shrunk since you grew up?

Trouble is that too many sporting conclusions are reached without the benefit of comparison. How can any of today's footballers be put up against Pele and the equally talented Alfredo di Stefano if you never saw them? The greatest batsman I have ever seen - albeit towards the end

of his career - is Bradman. The best fast bowler, Ray Lindwall. Muhammad Ali is the best heavyweight of my experience but respect is held out for those who saw and argue in favour of Joe Louis.

Given technological developments in golf, isn't it possible that Ben Hogan and Sam Snead would have been as long from the tee as Tiger Woods? Equally, it is hard to imagine that Jack Nicklaus's probably unassailable record of major championships could have been achieved against today's depth of talent.

You can go on and on like this, however it gets me no

further from the aggravating fact of glib appraisal.

A habit of some football commentators and writers is to confer superior status on players who have yet to prove that the gift they were born with can be successfully applied at the highest level. To my mind, the term "world class" in its purest form implies serious consideration for a team chosen from the best presently playing. In a wider, more illustrious context, it can be applied to the best ever.

For some years now I have gone around with a list in my head of eight footballers who figure beyond all reasonable

doubt in the highest category. They are: Pele, Di Stefano, Ferenc Puskas, George Best, John Charles, Diego Maradona, Johan Cruyff and Franz Beckenbauer. Many came close, but not close enough in debate with managers and coaches to make disagreement more than marginal.

Apart from natural talent, the quality common to all those players in their prime was determination.

Along with rare powers of skill and imagination, it stood out in the marvellous innings Lara played on Tuesday. A genius of his game. No question about it.

SPORT

LARA IS BACK WITH THE BEST P27 • THE CUP STEEPED IN HISTORY P24

Draw ends Northern Irish hopes

JUST LIKE Moldova's crumbling Republic Stadium, Northern Ireland's European dream lies in pieces following a no-score bore in Chisinau yesterday. Only a win would have done for Lawrie McMenemy's side if they were to keep their faint hopes of qualifying for Euro 2000 alive, but the point gained from this dull encounter leaves the Irish well behind the Group Three leaders with just five points from five games.

The result may even spell the beginning of the end of McMenemy's reign. The former Southampton manager's contract with Northern Ireland expires at the end of this qualifying campaign.

McMenemy had gambled on the untested Bournemouth striker Stephen Robinson for what was his most important match since taking charge. But the move failed as the 24-year-old Robinson struggled to bridge the gulf in quality between the Second Division and international football.

England's Hungary trip in the balance

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION has said that the Balkan crisis would have to deteriorate before England's friendly in Hungary at the end of next month is cancelled.

Speculation has already begun as to whether the match can go ahead, given that Hungary borders Serbia, where Nato are currently carrying out air strikes in response to the bloodshed in Kosovo.

One report indicated that the game on 28 April was to be called off due to the proximity of Budapest to Belgrade - about 180 miles - and the threat of terrorist attacks. The safety of the players will be the FA's main consideration, while the

FOOTBALL
BY DAVID ANDERSON
in ChisinauMoldova 0
Northern Ireland 0

He could make little impact on the match, apart from getting in the way of a Keith Gillespie effort in the first half. In truth the Irish generally created very little, although Iain Dowie appealed in vain for a header which he felt had crossed the line.

McMenemy had told his captain, Steve Lomas, to push forward at every opportunity in support of Robinson and Dowie, and he went close with a 25-yard shot early on.

Gillespie also tried his luck from the right only for his effort to cannon off Robinson. Michael Hughes made his mark on the game and Oleg Fistician's legs on 13 minutes when he chopped down the Moldovan to earn a yellow card.

Moldova, whose last competitive win was almost four years ago, stirred briefly and Igor Oprea's cross precise cross from the left was headed just over by Alexander Sukharev.

That effort brought the home fans to life, although Northern Ireland's small travelling band of supporters were also making themselves heard.

Mark Taylor proved he was not suffering any after effects from Saturday's 3-0 defeat against Germany when he made a fine save from Sergiu Epureanu's 20-yard free-kick. Then just before the interval, Sergei Kleshchenko played in Vladimir Gaidamaschuk only for Darren Patterson to halt him.

There was little to pierce the gloom after the break, the game plunging to new depths of tedium and the Moldovan crowd presumably wondering if the entertainment on offer was really worth a day's wages.

Kevin Horlock became the third Irish player to be booked in the 61st minute before Aaron Hughes came on for Patterson two minutes later.

Midway through the half came the moment when Dowie felt he had scored. The Queen's Park Rangers striker got his head to Lomas' long throw-in, but the Croatian referee ruled that Sergei Dinov had palmed the ball away before it could cross the line. With that decision went any lingering Irish hopes of qualification.

MOLDOVA: Dinov (Constructorul Chisinau), Fistician (Zimbru Chisinau), Rebeja (Urmasii Elita), Sosonovsky (Dynamo Kiev), Gutsa (Torpedo Zaporozhye), Sirotenko (Tilguz Traspol), Sukharev (Origo Dnipropetrovsk), Oprea (Zimbru Chisinau), Gaidamaschuk (Siret Traspol), Epureanu (Zimbru Chisinau), Kleshchenko (Zimbru Chisinau). Substitutes: Stankovic (Nistru Otaci) for Oprea, 90.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Taylor (Fulham), Patterson (Dundee United), Horlock (Manchester City), Williams (Chesterfield), Morrow (Queen's Park Rangers), Lomas (West Ham), Gillespie (Blackburn Rovers), Lesman (Leicester City), Mc Hughes (Wimbledon), Dowie (Queen's Park Rangers), Robinson (Bournemouth), Substitutes: A Hughes (Newcastle United) for Patterson, 56. Referee: E. Trucanu (Croatia).



Jacques Villeneuve, of the British American Racing team, keeps focused yesterday during the practice session at the Montmelo race track near Barcelona in preparation for the Brazilian Grand Prix on 11 April. Reuters

Hussain called up for Sharjah

CRICKET
BY DEREK PRINGLE

NASSER HUSSAIN has been called-up to join the England World Cup squad. The Essex captain, who replaces the injured Michael Atherton, will join his team-mates on 5 April, two days before England's first game against Pakistan in the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah.

For Hussain, omitted from the original World Cup squad despite several fine performances in the recent one-day series in Australia, the late call will no doubt feel like poetic justice.

"Obviously I feel really disappointed for Athens," Hussain said. "We grew up together in cricket and his back problems are a real worry for English cricket. Other than that, I feel elated. When I was left out of the original squad I felt completely empty. Before that I thought I'd had a pretty good tour of Australia, but the disappointment of being left out changed that perception."

But if the younger Hussain would have let that initial disappointment eat away at him for the rest of the summer, the mature one decided to pour his energy into getting Essex in shape for the new season. "I'd only just got the disappointment of not making the World Cup squad out of my mind when I heard on my car radio that Athens had pulled out. Naturally all the emotions I'd only just dealt with came flooding back. It's been a nail-biting few days."

England's selectors, mindful of yesterday's deadline, had to make their decision quickly, no mean feat with Graham Gooch in Essex, Mike Gatting in the Algarve and both David Graveney and Alec Stewart in Pakistan. But the obvious candidates were few and it was always likely to be a choice between Hussain and Mark Ramprakash.

The tour manager, David Graveney, said: "He [Hussain] may not be an opener but he would be one of the first names on your list in a Test match scenario, which would be fair evidence of his technical prowess, and his fielding capabilities are also in his favour."

Walker suspended in a drugs 'nightmare'

DOUG WALKER hopes that he would have no case to answer following the adverse findings shown up by a doping test last December vanished yesterday.

The European 200 metres champion was suspended pending a disciplinary hearing after the UK Athletics drug advisory committee announced - belatedly - that there was enough scientific evidence to warrant further investigation. If the suspension is upheld, Walker faces the maximum ban of two years.

The news was broken to the 25-year-old Edinburgh athlete at around 9.30am as he travelled to a press conference at the Law Society building in Chancery Lane - a venue that could turn out to be entirely appropriate if, as seems likely, this case becomes a matter of protracted legal wrangling.

Looking dazed and close to tears, Walker described the situation he now found himself in as "a total nightmare". He has always maintained his innocence since a urine sample taken in an out-of-competition test on 1 December revealed metabolites - processed traces - of nandrolone, a banned steroid.

The initial findings reduced the former Scottish schoolboy and Heriot's FP rugby player to tears, and he confessed that he had cried again yesterday as he passed on the latest finding to his father, David, back home in Edinburgh.

"I am shocked," Walker said. "I never thought things would go this far." He repeated his assertion that he was innocent, but

ATHLETICS

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

admitted that he did not have an explanation for the findings. "Like many other athletes, I have used protein supplements, but everything I have taken has been well guided," he said. "There is no reason why there should have been an adverse finding. It's quite ironic because I was always dead against drugs. I was always one of the cynics when I heard people denying they had taken stuff."

Asked if he had a message for people back in Scotland, the man who had carried the flag of St Andrew at last year's Commonwealth Games responded: "Keep the faith. It may take a few months, but I will be cleared. You have got to believe that when you are innocent."

Walker has already dipped into his savings to hire legal advice. Now, as his legal representative Nick Bittel observed yesterday, things start to get really expensive. If the hearing

- for which there is no date yet - upholds his suspension, Walker will have to organise an appeal hearing and, perhaps, further legal challenges.

Diane Modahl, currently seeking half a million pounds worth of damages from the now defunct British Athletic Federation after having her drug ban overturned on appeal, has spent more than £450,000 on her legal fees thus far.

Walker, who lives at home with his parents, does not have that kind of money. He does not even own a car, although he did remark yesterday that his mother Janet had a B reg Honda Civic that might fetch £300. It was a rare moment of levity in what was a traumatic experience for him.

"This is just the beginning, not the end," said Bittel, who said that nandrolone metabolites could be present in urine for numerous reasons, either occurring naturally, or as a result of the ingestion of legal supplements.

In the last week Bittel, who expressed anger yesterday that the findings of the original UK Sports Council test had still not been communicated to Walker, said he had contacted the president of the Spanish athletic federation, Jose Maria Odriozola, a professor of microbiology, who is refusing to proceed with a doping case involving the Spanish pole vaulter Dana Cervantes. He says the presence of nandrolone metabolites in urine is no proof of wrongdoing.

However, such assertions are no more than intriguing theories for the pale figure who sat and suffered yesterday.



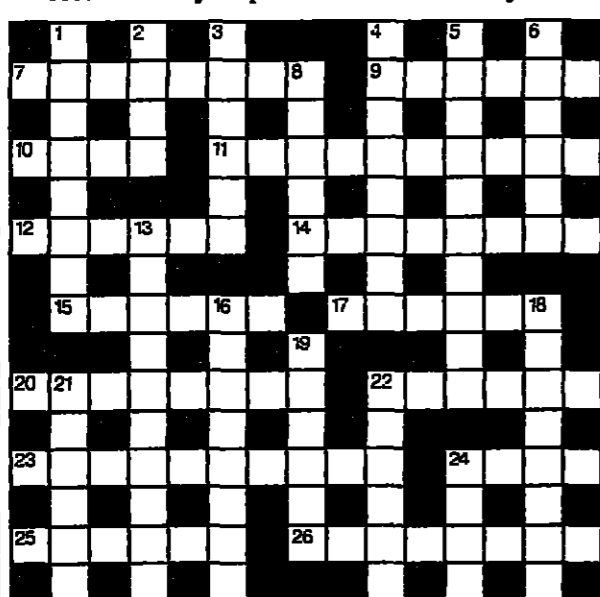
Walker: Reduced to tears

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No.3885 Thursday 1 April

by Mass

Wednesday's solution

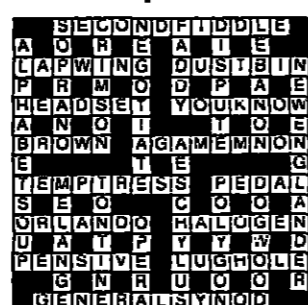


ACROSS

- 7 Typical April fools, a bit taken in (8)
9 Time of year for playful teasing (6)
10 April fool? One bent on fish (4)
11 Mum's an April fool - no dupe, otherwise (8,2)
12 Endless sport on day for deception (6)
14 Thursday's first, great for catching one out (8)
15 Couple hiding fool's wine cup (6)
17 Fool taken in by school sneak ... (6)
20 ... fooling by word of mouth? Edward's taken in (8)
22 Daydreaming fool's interrupted by some devilry (6)

DOWN

- 1 Girl has New Testament and Cross? (8)
2 Right and Left in contest (4)
3 Primate's an eminent historian (6)
4 Badly done to, I'm for drop (8)
5 They might indulge in a certain amount of leg-pulling (10)
6 Concerned with trick?



ACROSS

- 1 Reciprocate (6)
2 Note about a bird - e.g. emu (6)
3 There's bound to be a trick in it (6,4)
4 Diversion in street under repair (8)
5 English red deer up ahead stopped in its tracks (8)
6 Receives grants (6)
7 Fool old one impishly (6)
8 Niggardly? Very, hoarding silver (6)
9 Record sound of romantic composer (4)

THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY

BY ANN
TRENEMAN



Tom Pilon

Sex and the single currency

Marcelle d'Argy Smith is famous for telling *Cosmo* readers everything they need to know about orgasms. But now she has a new passion. Politics. And she's set her heart on Brussels

Marcelle d'Argy Smith is famous for her years at *Cosmo* but now she has found another passion - politics. And by this she means euro politics. She even claims to love Brussels. I think that this is strange but then realise that such a fetish would fit well with her *Cosmo* past. She loves Brussels so much, in fact, that she is standing as an MEP for the new Pro-Euro Tory Party. This, despite the fact that she is a socialist. I mention this inconsistency to her. She shrugs as if to say, well, everybody makes their mistakes.

This is true. I can't help but notice that everyone I talk to before this interview seems mistaken about Marcelle. They do not want to know her views on the euro. "Orgasms," they say. "Didn't she say you could have 10 before breakfast? Ask about that."

I arrive well past breakfast, thank goodness, and find Marcelle in a suit, albeit an elegant one. It seems that she has taken against photographers because a picture has appeared that makes her look like "Ann Widdecombe's very cross older sister." She is locked in Geneva-type negotiations with *The Independent's* photographer Tom Pilon. Marcelle is wary. Tom is patient. He says that he is trying very hard not to say the words "Trust me". Marcelle agrees that he should not utter those words: "Never trust a man who says trust me. It's so corny but it's true!"

I retreat to the front room of her flat near Hyde Park. There are two large sofas and a coffee table that is burdened with books about Europe. Some are hardbacks. Now that is dedication. A Diptyche candle is burning. Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* is blaring. Marcelle enters carrying a glass of peach-flavoured water. Negotiations have stalled and, in the cooling-off period, the interview begins. I say that I have to ask her about the orgasm thing but that we could leave it until last. She laughs. I say that we are going to talk about politics and I swear that she looks a little startled.

It is impossible to have a straightforward conversation with Marcelle d'Argy Smith. Every question leads to an answer that is best described as a maze. In print this may seem a bit ditsy but in person it is not, perhaps because her voice is low and her delivery can be rather thoughtful. Her accent is unplaceable and certainly does not reflect Leigh-on-Sea in Essex, which is where she grew up an indeterminate number of years ago.

Fun is a favourite word and she is undoubtedly fun to talk to as she intersperses her euro-babble with random thoughts on men, sex and life in general. These seem the verbal equivalent of a *Cosmopolitan* cover line. She was famous for these when she was editing the magazine in the early Nineties, and she certainly hasn't lost her touch.

On Europe she is gushing and says that she has felt like this since she was 21 and lived in southern France. This intensified as she travelled round Europe for 12 years while editing *International Art and Antiques Yearbook*. She has been a member of the European Movement for some time. "So," she says, "when John Stevens was casting around for candidates, somebody told him to call me." She says that Mr Stevens, an MEP who broke away from the Conservatives last year, is not an unattractive man. "He has an obscene amount of brown shiny hair. Did I say Byron? Well, I don't know what Byron looked like. I suspect that he had more defined cheekbones."

She did not take his call at first. "I had put my back out and was in agony. I was crawling to a Fulham physio on all fours in the taxi. Then I was on a deadline, writing a piece on what it feels like to be publicly fired. Yes, from *Woman's Journal*. That's right. Being publicly fired had no effect on me whatsoever. Those sorts of things don't affect me." She stops talking for a moment and spends a moment beaming.

She then jumps to another subject, saying that she adored a man called Vincent Hannah. I say that I remember him, the broadcaster who died suddenly a few years ago. She tells me all about a lunch they had and then, finally, comes the point. "It was one of the things he said about his life. He looked at me and said that it is very important in life that you keep on re-inventing yourself. I thought that was really interesting. You do, you know. You just have to go and do something else. I never know what it is going to be, by the way."

I should steer her back to politics but instead I comment that it can be difficult to go back to things. "Well, you can sometimes go back to men," she says, her voice now almost a whisper. Oh really, I say. "Well, I think if you've exhausted each other then you can't. But there are often people who have a sort of dalliance and it just passes and then they meet again when all

the corners are rubbed off and that is the most brilliant thing going."

So has she done this? She dodges the question and says that she is a believer in the saying that goes: "Everything you say should be true but that is no reason to tell all the truth." She does not like to talk names or specifics. "I'm an editor. One of the great things about being an editor is that I've learned to edit what I say. It's not fair on me or the men. But people do come to me and eyeball me and say: are you a lesbian? Oh, I would be thrilled! But..."

I interrupt. What about the phone call from John Stevens? "Oh yes, so I talked to him. I said the thing is I'm a socialist. He said we should meet anyway." They did, at the Chelsea Arts Club. Marcelle likes it there because she can go there when she "looks like rat shit". She demanded that he be grilled by her friend AA Gill. He agreed. They talked about the euro timetable and Marcelle was appalled to realise the situation was worse than she thought. Labour won't hold a referendum until after the election and

it would take several years to introduce the euro after that. She says that that brings us to 2006. "That is simply too far away."

We are all being kept in the dark because Tony Blair and Gordon Brown are afraid to come out and say they believe in the euro. "I happen to know they do," she says. She says we are the least informed people in Europe. "We know nothing about what the euro would do for us. There has been no information given to us. We've got an extremely hostile media. All we hear about is that the Germans are still warlike and that we will have French laws and have to pay for the Italians. It is all wrong."

She draws breath. "Look, I've been paid by *Woman's Journal* until August. Yes, that's true. It's very rare that you get a tiny space like this and I can throw myself into this. How can I get elected? I probably can't. But from now until June, boy, can you raise the debate."

Marcelle wants to push for two things. The first is getting rid of William Hague whom she calls a "flat-earther". She prefers Kenneth

Clarke, anyway. "He is far more modern. He's relaxed, he sits back, he likes jazz. He loves his wife. They chat around forever." I interrupt. So what is the second thing? "We can press this Government. What we are demanding - if not demand then ask, insist, pressure, make a fuss about - is that we have a referendum within a year. That means information now. We need information now."

The phone rings. Earlier John Stevens had rung and Marcelle had invited him to a soiree that evening at a magazine called *The Erotic Review*. "He didn't answer other than to say that he's led a sheltered life," she says. I suspect that all that is about to change. This time the call is from *Any Questions*. "Yes, well, I'll have to read the papers," she says. Marcelle says that the press is only interested in her because of the "freak factor".

I say that it must be terrifying to be on one of those shows and she shakes her head. "It's funny what you are terrified of. Dinner parties. I could never give a dinner party. Terrified of it." She says that she would rather sleep with a man than have a dinner party because then there are only two people who would know if you screwed it up. It seems a good time to mention the orgasm factor. Did she ever run an article on 10 before breakfast? "No, I was too busy doing it. Noooo, of course I didn't."

It's time for the photograph - Tom's patience has paid off - but first I ask her about her party politics one more time. Can you really be a socialist and a Tory simultaneously? "I don't think this is about that. This is an issue. Look, I'm Jewish. I look at the Chief Rabbi and he drives me insane. He is anti-gay. He is a fundamentalist. I cannot be a fundamentalist! I don't think that Labour is good or the Tories bad."

So what happens if she is actually elected on 10 June? Marcelle looks shocked. "Ahhh. Oh, that is something else. I haven't thought that far ahead. No, I haven't."



William Hague: 'flat-earther'



Ken Clarke: 'he loves his wife'

INSIDE	Letters	2	Arts	9	Listings	15-16	EDUCATION & FAST TRACK
	Leaders and comment	3-5	Film	10-12	Radio	17	
	Obituaries	6-7	Fast Track	13	Satellite TV	17	
	Features	8	Law	13	Today's TV	18	

TECNO PHOTO VIDEO DIGITAL

KNOCKOUT DEALS

SAMSUNG VPA-20
Fully specified 8mm camcorder at a new Easter bargain price!
✓ 16x powerzoom with macro mode
✓ 4 preset shooting modes
✓ Tide generator
✓ Edit search & insert edit
✓ Fader for smooth transitions
Was £299.99
Now £249.99

PENTAX Espio 140
Top-rated 38-140mm zoom camera at new low price!
Only £149.99

FUJIFILM MX700
Massive savings on best selling Megapixel digital camera.
Originally £699.99
Was £449.99
Now £379.99

Maxell M VHS tape
E-180 3-hour high grade tape, 1000m per cassette
RRP £2.99 Now £1.99

Kodak Film Cut Price
36-exp ISO 200 35mm colour film, 135mm 35s per cassette
RRP £2.99 Now £1.99

Duracell AA Batteries
4x AA Alkaline batteries, 2300mAh per battery
RRP £3.99 Now £2.99

FREE unlimited internet access breathe new life
Pick up your free CD-ROM guide to the best of the internet, plus packed with 100's of accessories.
Available from any store or call Tecno Direct on
0800 038 88 99

Latest FREE Catalogue!
Pick up your copy of our latest catalogue, it's brimming with huge savings on the latest in photo, video & digital, plus packed with 100's of accessories.
Available from any store or call Tecno Direct on
0800 038 88 99

Tecno
PHOTO • VIDEO • DIGITAL

• BELFAST • BIRMINGHAM • BRIGHTON • BRISTOL • BROMLEY • CAMBRIDGE • CARDIFF
• CHESTER • GLASGOW • HANLEY • IPSWICH • LIVERPOOL • LEEDS • LONDON • CITY • HULL
• MANCHESTER • NOTTINGHAM • OXFORD • PETERBOROUGH • READING
• SHEFFIELD • SOUTHAMPTON • WATFORD

Tecno Direct FREEPHONE 0800 038 88 99

THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The refugees' trail must extend to the shores of Britain

NOTHING COULD have prepared us for the horror of Slobodan Milosevic's attempt to drive out Kosovo's entire non-Serb population. He had done it before, to the Muslims in those parts of Bosnia claimed as Greater Serbia, but the whole point of Nato's bombing was to deter him from doing it again.

The first aim of Western policy, therefore, has failed. But that does not mean the policy was wrong. The alternative to threatening military action was to acquiesce in the slow "ethnic cleansing" of Kosovo over a number of years. This way, the process is crushed into a few weeks, creating a refugee crisis on a scale not seen since the Second World War. Yes it is a disaster, but at the same time there is now more hope that the Albanian-speaking people of Kosovo will ultimately obtain protection, and that Milosevic and his fellow war criminals will be brought to justice.

The details of the systematic campaign of terror waged by the Serbian forces are chilling. James Dalrymple's account (on the front page of today's *Independent*) of the terrible suffering of the refugees on the border between Kosovo and Macedonia should be enough to convict the Serbian leadership of crimes against humanity. It is a description of the misery inflicted on only a few hundred of the tens of thousands of refugees. The deliberate policy of "identity elimination", in which Kosovar refugees are stripped of their papers while public records in the towns they have left are destroyed, is frightening.

Once the Kosovars have fled, of course, the difficulty of justly restoring the pre-existing state is multiplied several-fold. If a guaranteed peace can be brought to Kosovo - it could take months or years - the returning refugees will face all the problems of recovering property from crooks and impostors with which post-war Europe was familiar.

Meanwhile, however, it is the scale of the immediate disaster that should command our attention. The refugees who are queuing on the roads out of Kosovo or camped above the snow-line in Macedonia or huddled in camps and villages in Albania and Montenegro, urgently need food and shelter. Our moral obligation is even more pressing than in the case of natural disasters such as Hurricane Mitch; it was the British Government's attempt to protect these people that provoked their enemies and forced them to head for the exits.

We have to feed, clothe and house them - by the roadsides and on the hillsides to start with. That is why we are asking our readers to give generously to the appeal on behalf of the Disasters Emergency Committee, co-ordinating 15 charities. And that is why the Government has to open Britain's doors to our share of the refugees. Our duty to the people of Kosovo extends much further than bombing their tormentors by remote control.



The library campaign that misses the point

SOMETIMES THE warm, comforting conservatism of the liberal left can make the gorge rise. If Joan Bakewell, Deborah Moggach, Ben Elton, Harry Enfield and Alan Bennett are against something, it is tempting to feel that it should be defended. If they are complaining about closures and spending cuts, planning sit-ins and demanding a meeting with the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, it must be right to close and cut. And if we are talking about branch libraries in Hampstead, whose doors have never been darkened by these celebs, then bring on the bulldozers now.

Camden Council says that three of its 13 libraries are under-used and cost far more per book lent than any other libraries in London, and wants to concentrate facilities on better-resourced centres.

But hold on a minute. Branch libraries are not like cottage hospitals. Most people would rather be treated in a big hospital, a centre of excellence. But if they want to get the next volume of *Animorphs* for a child who has suddenly discovered the joys of voracious reading, any old library will do. It does not have to be a collage-covered community centre-cum-CD-ROM multimedia Internet café.

So Camden should reconsider its closure plans; making libraries less accessible cannot be right. But there is a broader issue.

What is depressing about this dispute is the conservatism at the heart of the protests. Four years ago, almost to the day, a similar coalition of arts and literary stars, led by Judi Dench, Melvyn Bragg, Beryl Bainbridge and Fay Weldon, announced that it was planning to sue Stephen Dorrell, the then heritage secretary, for allowing Camden to close some branch libraries. They had been organised by the Library Association, which successfully mobilised the interests of the producers of the service - librarians. Their victory

simply maintained the status quo, so that this week the same arguments could be rehearsed all over again.

It is no use simply preserving the existing library system in aspic; the interests of librarians, who want to freeze their pay and conditions and reduce their hours of work, do sometimes have to be challenged. The Internet has been a huge boon to the bookselling business, but people who cannot afford computers and books, or even newspapers, need libraries, and the new information technology can be used to empower them. What is needed is more branch libraries, open long hours, using computers to access central collections. Their core function should, of course, be preserved. Many people - of all backgrounds - remember the magic libraries held when they were children as gateways to new worlds of discovery. Students, the unemployed and the old need them. But Joan Bakewell and her chums would be doing a greater public service if they got out their placards for new libraries, new technology and new ways in which services could be delivered.

Why do these decent folk find it so difficult to support the war?

WHEN I was younger, I thought that the only people in Britain who had balked at going to war with Hitler were the Mosleyites and a few Remainers of the Day-type right-wing aristocrats (oh, and, for very complex and embarrassing reasons, the Communists). Then, as I read more, a more nuanced picture gradually developed of the great informal coalition that argued hard for most of the Thirties against rearmament and against taking effective action to stop Germany's various incursions on the European continent that was established at Versailles in 1919.


But I never really had a handle on the psychology of this movement until this week. Now, reading letters to the newspapers, listening to the phone-ins, absorbing the arguments of historians such as Correlli Barnett, studying the speeches of politicians such as Alex Salmond, Tony Benn and Alan Clark, I think I can see how it happened. I comprehend how basically decent people can use every argument at their disposal to seek to avoid confronting something that they know (or ought to know) is intolerable.

And when you examine the views of the man and woman on the Belgrade tram, it is easier to see how so many Germans in the Thirties bought the Joseph Goebbels version of the world. As a 1992 study showed, even when offered sources of information independent of the government - and despite believing these sources to be more accurate and truthful - most Serbs preferred to stick with the xenophobic official newspapers and broadcasters. They were comforted by

the easy fix of the propaganda, and disconcerted by all its worth - is that the NATO bombing has provoked the current attempt by the Serbs to "ethnically cleanse" the entire province of Kosovo. This, it seems to me, is a bit like placing the blame for the Holocaust on the Allies, on the basis that there were no death camps before we declared war on Germany. One day, in some Belgrade archive, or inside a buried box, we shall discover the plans for the "cleansing" of Kosovo, drawn up long before last Wednesday.

The fact that ordinary Serbs are convinced by the nationalistic, racist and paranoid rhetoric of their own media and government is a strange reason for holding back on NATO action to save the Kosovar Albanians. Nevertheless it is one among many ingenious arguments thrown against the action by those who oppose it.

The other favourite one - now being flogged for all it's worth - is that the NATO bombing has provoked the current attempt by the Serbs to "ethnically cleanse" the entire province of Kosovo. This, it seems to me, is a bit like placing the blame for the Holocaust on the Allies, on the basis that there were no death camps before we declared war on Germany. One day, in some Belgrade archive, or inside a buried box, we shall discover the plans for the "cleansing" of Kosovo, drawn up long before last Wednesday.



DAVID AARONOVITCH
We would wait until hell freezes over before Serb public opinion helps to stop the slaughter in Kosovo

On Monday night, with the refugees streaming into Macedonia and Albania, Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish Nationalist Party, denounced the NATO military action. It was, he said in a television broadcast, "unpardonable folly", an action of "dubious legality". He was also against putting in ground troops.

"Sometimes the right thing to do," he went on, "is to negotiate patiently even with those we find repellent, to recognise that economic influence is more effective than military might, and to accept the moral strength of relying on international law, even when it seems frustrating or ineffective."

Note the "sometimes" there. It suggests that, just as often, it is right to take up arms against those who are morally repellent; that "sometimes" it is also right to use military force, and

that "sometimes" a legalistic regard for international law can become an excuse for inactivity. And God alone knows that, if this is Mr Salmond's opinion, and he is not simply a pacifist, then Kosovo is the "sometimes" when intervention is justified.

Can it really be, I wonder, just four years since lightly armed Dutch UN troops watched helplessly as thousands of men were taken from their families in the UN "safe haven" of Srebrenica?

The Bosnian men were driven by bus to a large field where they were shot and buried, and the testimony of the survivors is exactly the same as that of survivors of Einsatzgruppen mass executions in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe. Surely to God, Alex, we haven't forgotten already?

If the West does indeed share some blame for Srebrenica, it is not because it used too much military force, or that it intervened too soon. It won't be because it had insufficient regard for international law, or because it refused to deal with people we regarded as "morally repellent". It was because it was weak, disunited, lacking in determination and hopelessly, absurdly optimistic about the "realism" of men such as Slobodan Milosevic.

The Bennis, the Salmonds, the Healeys, the Clarks, the Tapsells, the people who write letters to this paper splenetically blaming their own government for the current situation while absolving the Serbs, are all to be commended for expressing their views. It is not their fault that Slobodan Milosevic and his propaganda machine use every such utterance to

convince themselves and the Serbian population that Nato is split and will soon give up. Hopefully, the Serb regime will soon be disabused.

The isolationists, the nostalgic anti-imperialists (so well described in these pages yesterday by Ken Livingstone), the Tories who now seem to believe that there is no such thing as international society, the inveterate opposers of all things, must secretly pray that no one over here takes any notice of them. Can they possibly imagine what would happen now, were Nato to give up and go home?


A former American ambassador to Yugoslavia, Warren Zimmerman, once coined the phrase, "the paradox of prevention". The paradox is that democratic states cannot be easily mobilised to take action to prevent something happening, because - by definition - it hasn't happened yet.

Until Srebrenica, I was one of those who carp at the idea of Western ground troops being deployed in large numbers to enforce a peace. I was wrong.

I don't really want to be wrong like that again. It is now clear that there can be no Kosovar autonomy within a Yugoslav state, and that the actions of Serb thugs and murderers have rendered the provisions of the Rambouillet agreement inoperable. Some kind of Kosovar entity will have to be reconquered, protected and assisted. This will require ground troops, and their presence will be guaranteed only if enough people in the West demand it. Which, comrade, means you.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"Finishing the job is what we intend to do."
Tony Blair,
Prime Minister

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"An empire founded by war has to maintain itself by war."
Baron de Montesquieu,
French philosopher



JOIN FROM £43

Emergency services don't have hidden charges.

The AA aims to be more than just a breakdown service. Like the other emergency services we're ready to come to your aid at all hours of the day or night, every day of the year. Our priority at all times is to protect you first. With AA personal membership, you are automatically covered in any car as driver or passenger for which some other recovery services will charge you extra. So join today.

To our members we're not just a breakdown service, we're the 4th Emergency Service.

TO JOIN OR RENEW CALL FREE 0800 444 999

PLEASE QUOTE OFFER CODE 8003 LINES OPEN 24 HRS OR JOIN ONLINE AT WWW.THEAA.CO.UK

AA

IN THE end, any settlement will require not only the return of the refugees and reconstruction of their communities, but also the admission of peacekeepers to keep Serbs and Albanians from resuming their fratricide. Sending troops or arming whatever's left of the Kosovo Liberation Army might sound more satisfying. But Milosevic would pursue ethnic cleansing while a ground operation was prepared, and backing the KLA's aspirations

is a recipe for widening the war. Milosevic's "offer" can't be taken seriously; we must use the tools at hand to deal with his fangery.

USA Today

WE WONDER how many American fighting men and women will have to die before Clinton decides we have been sufficiently distracted from his myriad personal defects. While we have absolutely no respect for Clinton or his leadership abilities, we fully support American pilots and other personnel involved in this flawed effort. We wish them Godspeed in their return home to safety. We hope Clinton has the courage to

launch Wednesday alone will do the trick. Though it might kill many people, air attacks usually risk few American casualties. We should also realize that a "clean" air war is not enough to get the job done. Remember that Yugoslavia's counterinsurgency campaign in Kosovo mostly uses special forces in small units not very vulnerable to air strikes. In any event, high-tech wars provide good graphics for CNN, but they have little to do with the reality on the ground.

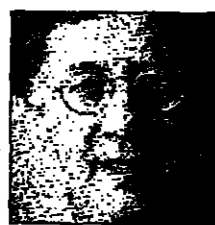
Providence Journal

AT THE moment, the situation in Kosovo is worse than before the bombing, not better, and it looks as if the campaign will have to be long-lived to achieve results. In that case, the president will need public support to continue to stand up to this bloody tyrant. He may not get it, in part, because he has done so little to pave the way.

Cincinnati Post

WE DELUDE ourselves if we think that the aerial bombing

Wish you were elsewhere



HAMISH MCRAE

For many people the distinction between work, leisure and family life will become blurred

OFF ON your holidays? The Easter weekend break sees the single largest holiday exodus of holiday-makers, larger even than on any summer weekend. But though it may not feel like that if you are struggling through an airport or stuck in a motorway jam, there is a quiet revolution taking place that will transform the holiday industry over the next generation in the way that the mass package has changed the industry over the past one.

The revolution has three parts. There has, for several years, been a sea change taking place in the demand for holidays, a change that has been met to some extent by changes in the supply. Now, most important of all, there is a change in the way in which suppliers can reach potential holiday-makers.

The change in demand is well-known. As the balance of the population, not just of Britain, but of all developed countries, gets older, the sort of holidays people take will change. In fact, it is already happening. The holiday market is becoming much more segmented - the family holiday remains, of course, but the growth will be in holidays for the retired, and for single people.

Parallel to this change in demography is a change in taste. Holidays are becoming more specialised, and increasingly carry with them some kind of educational or cultural experience. People go on holiday to learn something. That may be an activity such as skiing, but it may also be a skill, a foreign language, for example.

For some people, a holiday, instead of being a form of consumption, is becoming investment - investment in their human capital. As learning increasingly becomes a lifelong process, expect the barrier between leisure and education to blur to such an extent that it virtually disappears.

Unsurprisingly, the market has tried to meet these needs, but it has had some difficulty in doing so. During the past 30 years, the holiday industry has become terribly good at exploiting economies of scale, by applying mass-production manufacturing techniques to a service industry: ever cheaper flights, lower-cost destinations. It has not



Demand has increased for specialist holidays, such as trekking in the Himalayas, a trend that will be accelerated as more people use the Internet

Simon Lowe

been so good at fashioning holidays to specialist needs. Sure, there are specialist holiday companies and there is a handful of upmarket operators that create custom holidays. And there are companies like Saga, which have ridden on the growing market for mature citizens.

But the industry has not found it easy to create what manufacturers would call mass-customisation. As people develop more precise and specific needs, it becomes harder to match the product to the person. Besides, people do not necessarily know what they want. If it is hard to develop a holiday product for a demanding, specialised audience, it is harder still to create one for a specialised audience that does not know quite what it wants to demand.

Enter the information revolution. The Internet remains a crude and often frustrating tool, but it is already revolutionising many industries: bookselling, for example, and in the US, stock-market trading. Now it is starting to revolutionise the holiday business too.

The most obvious example of this is the online auctions for cheap airline seats. Because the airline seat loses all its value if it is unsold the moment the plane takes off, it is particularly suited to the auction. The

Internet is a technology that makes a radical improvement in information, bringing together buyer and seller, and so makes for greater efficiency in the use of a perishable product such as an airline seat.

But I don't think that is the main way in which the Internet, or whatever the Internet develops into, will change the tourism business. Online ticket sales are just one more way of making travel more efficient, like larger planes. The product is homogenised, so the buyer knows exactly what he or she will get. The main way in which the Internet will change things is quite different, for it will enable the whole industry to become much more specialised - thereby fitting in with the changes, noted above, that are taking place in demand and supply.

The more specialised the demand, the harder it is to find what you want. Regular brochures, even from specialised operators, are still offering a mass-market product. What the Internet does is to make available the great global library of information, not just offering a holiday on this or that date at this or that price, but giving people knowledge to enable them to develop their own ideas about the way they would like to use their leisure.

At one level, the Internet is just one more way in which established companies will sell themselves, and that is fine. The paper brochure is an inefficient and inflexible way of explaining the product, and anything that enables people more effectively to find out what they want is wonderful.

But this is to think of the new technology as a simple extension of the present one, whereas it gives the opportunity of radical change. Suppose you have a special interest, or would like to spend some holiday time developing one. You can find out a lot about the subject from the Internet - who the experts are, what the experiences are of other people in similar positions, how a mixture of home courses and weekends away might be mixed in with the holiday experience.

Now look at it from the point of view of the provider. We tend to think of the holiday company as the provider. But while some companies do provide the holiday, most rely on large numbers of subcontractors to do the work. The subcontractors produce to the specifications of the company that is marketing them. But now organisations that have not thought of themselves in the holiday business, but which have a prod-

uct to offer, can market directly.

Think of universities, which have both the skills and the accommodation available in the holiday period, but which now offer these in the rather formal summer course framework. Think of small hotels, which up to now have had to use indirect marketing through agents. Think of parts of this country that have a lot to offer (and attract a lot of foreign visitors) but which are neglected by Britons. Think of the way in which niche suppliers can get feedback, and create something of a global club of customers. Think of the way in which people's worries about what is, after all, a large purchase can be assuaged - by putting them in touch with other purchasers.

The key point here is that suppliers can reach their market - and that market may be anywhere in the world - much more efficiently than they could before. As the Internet itself develops, and its search facilities become more sophisticated, people will get more help in finding what they want, producers will be able to create precisely the product desired, and each will be able to reach all the others.

Of course, not everyone will want to buy or create his own specialised

holiday package. The mass market will continue, but it will tend to shrink in relative terms. The significance of the new information technologies is that they reinforce the trend towards specialisation that is already taking place.

Ultimately, I think we will no longer make as hard a distinction between holiday and work as we do now. True, there will be some activities for which we get paid - we shall have to go on earning a living somehow. And there will be others where we get away from it all, and pay to do so.

But for many people the distinction between work, leisure, education and family life will become so blurred that it will be quite hard to know whether a particular holiday is leisure or education. And the technology has become available to make this happen much more easily.

None of this will necessarily make the physical business of getting around any easier. Like everyone else, I shall be struggling through Gatwick Airport at the weekend. But I will be doing it to get a form of education - in fact, a scuba-diving certificate - and I did find the information on where to go on the Internet.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DOUG MCAVOY



The head of the National Union of Teachers responds to a leading article criticising the teaching unions

SHOOTING THE messenger is a well-known pursuit, but it is surprising to find *The Independent* a participant.

Unlike the Government, the National Union of Teachers has conducted thorough research of members' views on the Green Paper. The 30,000 responses overwhelmingly opposed payment by results.

Indeed, the union was founded 129 years ago as an amalgam of local teachers' associations to fight a similar scheme that narrowed children's education and undermined the service.

The Government has been forced to acknowledge that it has failed to convince teachers, parents and governors at its regional consultation meetings. It has received 26,000 submissions from a target group of millions, adding further emphasis to the validity of the union's survey.

In contrast to the Government, the union has worked to extend membership participation in decision-making. The NUT tests teachers' views regularly and takes those views into account.

On the Government's proposals, the message is clear: performance-related pay will destroy the teamwork necessary for school improvement. It will undermine rather than enhance standards. The Government is hell-bent on this scheme to meet its own political agenda.

The Independent's calls for teacher unity and a general teaching council are goals for which the NUT has long campaigned. However, their existence would not change the message of opposition to performance-related pay. It would be even clearer.

If the Government chooses to ignore the views of teachers, it will antagonise the profession and jeopardise the partnership it needs with teachers to achieve its standards agenda.

We are definitely not alone

THURSDAY BOOK

PROBABILITY 1: WHY THERE MUST BE INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE
BY AMIR ACZEL, LITTLE, BROWN, £17.50

I HAVE long thought that there are only two logical positions that might be defended concerning the probability of the existence of intelligent life elsewhere in the Universe. It is quite clear that life does require some sort of special conditions, because as far as we know there is no life in the Solar System except here on Earth. If it were easy for life to get a grip on a planet, we would see it on Venus and Mars, and on the moons of Saturn and Jupiter. But just how difficult is it for life to get started?

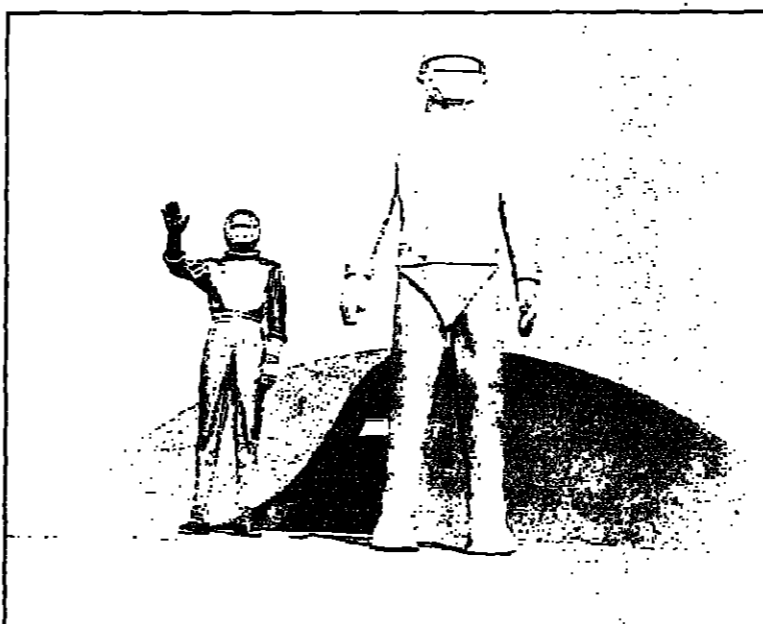
You might argue, on the basis of the limited knowledge we have, that it is so incredibly difficult that it has only happened once, here on Earth. Or you

might argue that it is just a tiny bit easier than that. But as soon as you allow for even the faintest possibility that life has emerged more than once, you have to confront the vastness of the Universe. In our Milky Way galaxy there are, roughly speaking, a couple of hundred billion stars more or less like the Sun. In the Universe at large,

there are several hundred billion galaxies like the Milky Way visible to our telescopes. Even a tiny probability that life might have arisen somewhere else, multiplied by the total number of stars in the Universe, gives you an extremely high probability, indistinguishable from 1, that there is intelligent extraterrestrial life.

In the absence of evidence either way, which option you choose is entirely subjective. But the point is that it is an all-or-nothing situation. Either the Universe is teeming with life, or we are alone. So the discovery of even one other Earth-like planet with signs of life on it would tip the scales dramatically, ruling out the option that we are unique. As one of my tutors used to be fond of pointing out, "you cannot extrapolate from a sample of one", so the existence of life on Earth in itself tells us nothing about the probability of finding intelligent life elsewhere. But the existence of life on two planets would mean that you could begin to extrapolate, and in this case the extrapolation immediately leads to the inevitable conclusion that life is far from unique.

As the title of his book suggests, Amir Aczel is firmly of the school of thought that says that we are not alone. Writing as a statistician, he spells out the probabilities involved in each step of the argument (the chance of a star having an Earth-like planet, the chance of life evolving to the point of intelligence on that planet, the chance of life spreading from one planet to another, and so on). This is done in an entertaining and informative



First contact, as depicted in 'The Day the Earth Stood Still'

fashion, but it still boils down to the argument that out of some hundred thousand billion billion stars, there must be more than one that is accompanied by an inhabited planet.

Much of this is familiar to anyone who has followed discussions about the possible existence of extraterrestrial life in recent years and decades. Aczel moves on to less familiar ground when he tackles the possible role of mathematical chaos in changing the way we think about some of the probabilities, but he stops short of reaching any conclusions about what this may tell us about the emergence of DNA as the molecule of life.

Indeed, "tantalising" is an apt word to sum up the whole argument. Aczel's book is to be recommended not for its conclusion, or even for the painstaking statistical analysis which lends credence to that conclusion, but for his skill as a storyteller. His previous

Hardback
cachet,
paperback
cash.

Hardbacks at
paperback prices.
£5.99 or less.

W
WATERSTONE'S
READ ON

Sale begins 27th March and ends on 31st April 1999. Offers valid while stocks of sale items last. There is no discount on books ordered in the sale. This offer is not available to a number of Waterstone's campus branches.

THURSDAY POEM

'SWEET DAY, SO COOL, SO CALM'
BY GEORGE HERBERT

Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright,
The bridal of the earth and sky,
The dew shall weep thy fall to-night;
For thou must die.

Sweet rose, whose hue, angry and brave,
Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye,
Thy root is ever in its grave,
And thou must die.

Sweet spring, full of sweet days and roses,
A box where sweets compacted lie,
My music shows you have your closes,
And all must die.

Only a sweet and virtuous soul,
Like seasoned timber, never gives;
But, though the whole world turn to coal,
Then chiefly lives.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from 'Literary Hymns: an anthology', compiled by Mark Bryant (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99)

I'm desperate to get pregnant

At 36, Wendy hears her biological clock ticking and she longs for a baby. Her partner of three years is also broody, but theirs is an on-off relationship. Should she try to find someone more stable, at the risk of never having children?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

When it comes to women in their late thirties getting pregnant with any old bloke just so they don't miss out on motherhood, mutters of "What about the child?", "Not fair it not having a father", "Selfish", start being heard in the Ironside household. Of course, it's quite easy for me to say that, as I already have a child, but I hope that were I now 36 and getting broody, I'd at least try to find a man who was committed to being a father, if not a partner.

And this, it seems, is the incredibly fortunate position that Wendy finds herself in. She may not have found Mr Right, but she's found that rare bird, a broody bloke. I've had lots of letters from married women who want to have children, but their husbands' minds are set against it. I've even had letters from men whose wives have refused to have children. But Wendy's man is up for fatherhood. And I think she should grab this chance of a family while she can.

We've all got anecdotal evi-

dence of friends who've had late babies. But the truth is that women's fertility starts to plummet after the age of 35. No one knows exactly why, but one theory is that some older women's eggs start getting old and wrinkly, like seeds that have lain in a cupboard too long. Another theory is that the lining of a woman's womb starts drying up and fertilised eggs simply can't implant there, like seeds thrown into a sour field. (Excuse the medical aside, but I write as one who tried to get pregnant at 39 and failed.) Even if Wendy were to meet Mr Right in the next year – and there are few enough nice men available, as anyone in their thirties will tell you; they're not left in the stable for nothing – it would probably be another two years at least before they'd consider a family, and by then she'd be 39. Her chances of pregnancy might have been lost for ever.

Now, what about the child? Since Wendy's relationship with her boyfriend is so unstable, I think they ought to make contingency plans, quite coldly, about what happens to the child should they split. They should agree, before it's even born, whether it should live with her or her boyfriend most of the time, and

that whatever happens each would always allow the other to have unlimited access. They should agree that they would never stop their in-laws from visiting, and that neither would leave the country for the next 15 years – or, if they do, to do it in tandem. They should agree that they're not having a baby to save their relationship or to bind them together, but because they have a lot of love to give a child, even if they don't always have enough love for each other.

By openly acknowledging the instability of their relationship, and discussing the options in the event of a split, they have, paradoxically, a chance to make life for their child more, rather than less, secure than that of children of parents who aren't prepared for divorce. And if they can't agree on these ground rules now, then perhaps they should think twice about pregnancy.

Finally, they should remember that having a baby together is far more binding than marriage. You can always get divorced, but once you have a baby you're related, as parents, until you die.

DILEMMAS WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



This may work well for you. Go for it only if you are happy, willing and able to go it alone. If this man also wants to have children, hopefully he will be able to provide the stable, committed relationship with them he appears unable to have with you. I was in a similar situation – our son is now nine years old. Co-parenting works well for us and our son. However, it's not everyone's cup of tea.
CAROLINE BUCKNALL
London N4

Full discussion is the key. It is wonderful that Wendy's man is broody too. They should "go for it" – but discuss and confirm their relationship first. Wendy is intelligent and will have chosen to go out with a man bright enough to be father to her children. Sharing the fun and trials of parenthood will bind them together as never before. Wendy knows she has not many childbearing years left. Perhaps her man realises that his ability to become a father reduces with age.
JILL WILLIAMS
Knebworth, Hertfordshire

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

Take a responsible attitude. A child, ideally, needs two loving and committed parents. We often hear claims of people's "right" to have a child, yet we are in danger of widening the chasm between rights and responsibilities. A child is neither a commodity nor an accessory to life: it is a

life in itself. Too many women regard the menopause as a "closing down sale", so they'd better procreate. Wendy should examine her motives and ask not "what can a child do for me?", but "what can I do for a child?"
NANCY RYAN
Wirral, Merseyside

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia,
Since he was two, my 10-year-old son from my first marriage has spent equal time at each parental home. I now have twins of four with my new partner. The problem is, my son's mother and her husband have a life of conspicuous materialism, while we're more frugal. And at his mother's the boy is allowed to watch films he can't watch here, and can go to bed when he likes. My son is starting to find the standards of our home relatively draconian. He's starting to behave like a spoilt brat. I love him, but question whether to-ing and fro-ing between different lifestyles

is good for him. I feel we could bring him up better, but his mother would never consent. Should the status quo continue, or should one parent let go and allow him to spend more time in one environment? How flexible can children be?
Yours sincerely, Simon
Anyone with advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Ironside. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk, giving a postal address for a bouquet

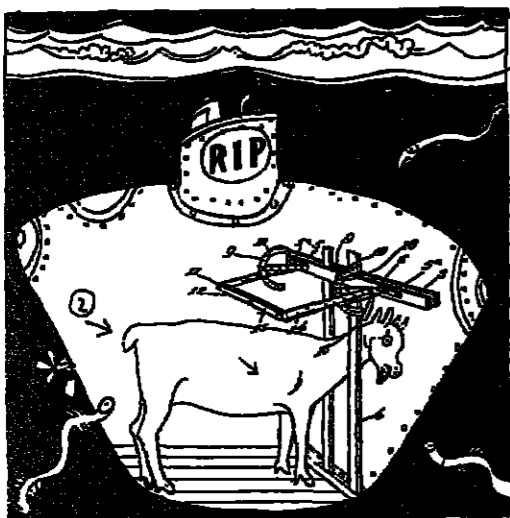
POETIC LICENCE

GOATS SUFFER IN SUBMARINE TESTS

BY MARTIN NEWELL

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL HEATH

Hundreds of goats have been subjected to decompression tests by military scientists to see what might happen to sailors trapped in submarines. Concerned MPs will ask questions in the Commons next week about the experiments, to find out exactly how many goats have died.



Well no. The goats don't always die. Quite a few of them are reusable. But not as actual submarine crew. Since they don't have opposable thumbs

And they'd be no use in wartime. Because of smells in confined spaces. Oh and horns getting stuck in hatches. So we use decompression chambers.

Well, they use pigs for testing live ammo. So I suppose we scientists just thought: "Submarines? Decompression? The bends? Gotta be goats. For sure. Absolutely. Yup."

Think about it. One minute I'm at uni. Then the next I've answered this advert: Reckon You've Got What It Takes? Come and compress goats for the Navy."

"Had a hard day at the labs, darling? Any closer to sorting out that pressure problem? Any fan mail from grateful sailors then?" Nope. We sure gave those goat spleens what for though.

So do the goats get distressed about it? How should I know? No. I'm not trying to Worm out of it. This is what they say: "They bleat and leap around." Whatever.

No. I don't know what the women scientists think. One of the guys got taken off it, though. Oh and your brother, the leftie nutter, told me To have a word with myself. About myself.

What? Didja think we'd put them in their own Little submarines? With peaked caps? In an immersion tank. Like in the film Das Goat? Sorry. Cheap shot. Don't cry.

Death on the docks: the short life and violent end of Simon Jones

A student on the dole was sent to a job that killed him. Who will take the blame? By Barrie Clement

In many ways, Simon Jones was an infuriating young man. Unpunctual, often unable to rise before noon, he seemed incapable of sticking to any activity which might give him a conventional career. He went to study government at Essex University, but stayed for just a term. Then, after a couple of years working in London, he opted to go to Sussex University to begin a degree in social anthropology. After three years, he decided on the first morning of his final exams that he couldn't go through with it.

By all accounts, however, Simon was far brighter than the average university student. He was also a committed environmentalist, an implacable opponent of racism and a charming, gentle and caring young man; a free spirit. One of the issues that concerned him most deeply was safety at work. (Simon was a member of the Brighton-based direct-action group Justice?, which campaigned on behalf of the Liverpool dockers who went on strike against the "casualisation" of the industry.)

Almost a year after leaving university – having made a commitment to go back and complete his degree – Simon was sent by an employment agency to work at Shoreham Docks. He was claiming the Jobseekers' Allowance and the Employment Service insisted that he take any work offered to him. Some two hours after arriving at the docks on 24 April, he was dead, his head partly severed. He had been working in the hold of a ship and a crane grab had crushed him.

The work Simon undertook for Euromin, a Dutch-owned firm, was hazardous to say the least. His job was to attach bags of cobblestones to books which had been welded to the inside of the open grab. He received just a few minutes' training. The conventional method would have been to attach a hook to the crane. Employees at Euromin, however, contend that the company was reluctant to change the crane from grab to hook and back again because it cost time and money.

When the accident happened, the police and ambulance service were called, but the fire brigade also went to the scene so that Simon could be brought out of the hold. The crane driver and Euromin's general manager, James Martell, were arrested, but both were released without charge. Emma Aynsley, Simon's girlfriend at the time, has since been part of a campaign to bring those responsible for his death to book. "I'm astonished that there weren't better safety precautions and that an inexperienced person could be employed to undertake a job that was clearly dangerous."

It is difficult to think of anyone less suited to the job than Simon was asked to do. Although he was a robust young man, he was also given to self-



Simon Jones (above) and his girlfriend Emma Aynsley (right): 'He was exceptionally well-loved'

absorption. His time-keeping – or the lack of it – was legendary.

His intellectual achievements as a young boy were remarkable. While still at primary school, he read historical novels and at 13 years of age read Brendan Behan's *Borstal Boy*, which gave him strong views about our penal system. At 14, he identified very much with the Communist Party and by the age of 15, his teacher said he had read more than most people do in a lifetime. He became involved with causes such as the anti-apartheid and anti-poll tax campaigns.

His mother Chris says that when he was asked for money, he invariably gave it to them, even though he had little himself. But his seriousness about politics never obscured his "wacky" sense of humour. "He was exceptionally well-loved," says his mother.

For the last 10 months, Emma and his other friends, together with his mother and father, have waged a campaign to ensure that charges are preferred against those responsible. They insist that Personnel Selection, the agency which sent him to the docks, had a legal responsibility to ensure that the work was both suitable and safe. The company has pointed out that the Department of Industry has investigated its methods and resolved to take no further action.

Campaigners have put pressure on the Crown Prosecution Service to take action against Euromin, and against Mr Martell. The CPS initially decided that there was insufficient evidence for a charge of manslaughter, but has been persuaded to reconsider the case. In an impassioned speech in the Commons on 3 March this



Andrew Hassan

year, George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Kelvin, made clear where he thought responsibility lay. He told MPs that Mr Martell had not sent a word of condolence to the family and had "laughed out loud" when he was told that he could face prosecution. "Martell's contempt for the laws of health and safety in this country, his greed and hunger for profit and his negligence and carelessness slaughtered a young man just as clearly as if he had pushed him off the dock with his own hands," said Mr Galloway. Simon's family is now awaiting the further deliberations of the CPS. They could consider taking out a private

'I'm astonished an inexperienced person could be employed on a job so clearly dangerous'

prosecution, but that could prove both expensive and difficult, according to Louise Christian, the solicitor acting for the Jones family. The family is hoping for an inquest verdict of unlawful killing which, if necessary, could put pressure on government prosecutors to reopen the case for a third time.

The HSE has already registered its intention to take proceedings under health and safety legislation. That could result in fines, but at a "pitifully low level" according to the Jones family. A conviction for corporate manslaughter could result in Mr Martell and other Euromin executives serving jail sentences. As Mrs Jones says, the authorities are notoriously reluctant to accuse executives of manslaughter. There have only been

five such charges in the last 30 years. Gary Slapper, law director of the Open University, believes that official figures for deaths at work understate the real situation and that 20 per cent of fatalities involve managerial behaviour which give "good prima facie" grounds for manslaughter charges. Researchers at the Health and Safety Executive found that 70 per cent of the 739 deaths on building and civil engineering sites could have been avoided by "positive management action".

Emma, who was at Sussex University with Simon, says that the CPS is simply "reluctant to prosecute people in suits". She believes the execu-

tion and "Casualisation kills". Two days later they occupied the Brighton office of Personnel Selection. Earlier this month (March), after lobbying parliament, some of them forced their way past security guards at the Department of Trade and Industry in London, setting off a fire alarm. The building was evacuated and the demonstrators ejected. Simon, they believe, would have approved.

There is little doubt that young people are particularly vulnerable in potentially hazardous circumstances. Paul Conway, a director of the Unemployment Unit, says that employers often underestimate the degree to which experienced workers are able to avoid danger. New recruits are much more vulnerable.

He also believes that despite new instructions issued by the Government, the Employment Service is always keen to meet its target for getting people into jobs. "Some officials may be over-keen and send young people to unsuitable jobs," he says.

Simon's mother and father, both teachers, intend to fight on. Anne Jones argues that there was a "serious and obvious risk" to Simon because of the working conditions at the dock and that therefore there is sufficient evidence to bring a charge of manslaughter. She believes that most of the so-called "accidents" at work are anything but accidental: more often than not they are simply because management has failed to take the steps necessary to remove the risks. "Simon had a lot going for him," she says. "He had so much to live for. I know I can't bring him back, but if I can stop it happening to someone else, I will feel I've achieved something."

FILM

Flintlock
and two
smoking
barrels

Period drama is now thought to be so cobbled with cliché that most producers and directors won't try anything historical unless they can cast it in the image of the Nineties. The past now has to pull its weight not just in terms of contemporary "relevance", but in language and style, too. The prevailing idea seems to be that cinema audiences have time for the past only if it looks and sounds like the present. So anachronism has become the new orthodoxy. At one end of the scale you have the high comedy of *Shakespeare in Love*, which directs the traffic between the 16th century and our own with self-conscious erudition and wit. At the other end, you have *Plunkett & Macleane*, a tale of two dandy highwaymen that re-imagines the mid-18th century as a sort of costumed rock video. The director, Jake Scott, whose previous credits are in the business of music videos, made plain his intentions when he decided "to liberate myself from being slavish to the history books". While certainly no one will accuse him of accuracy, this creative licence leaves him with a gap to fill - what do you put in the place of "the history"?

THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

PLUNKETT & MACLEANE (15)
DIRECTOR: JAKE SCOTT
STARRING: ROBERT CARLYLE,
JONNY LEE MILLER, LIV TYLER,
KEN STOTT
101 MINUTES

The answer turns out to be a buddy movie, based on the lives of two lesser-known highway desperadoes. Bankrupt James Macleane (Jonny Lee Miller) joins felonious forces with Will Plunkett (Robert Carlyle) while in Newgate prison, and once released they launch a cunning plan. With Plunkett's money, Macleane will don the habiliments of a London gentleman, insinuate himself into high society and identify those grandees most suitable for robbery. Notoriety quickly follows.

and since movie outlaws also require an implacable adversary, here comes Thief-Taker General, Chance (Ken Stott), a shaven-headed sadist with a punitive line in dentistry. The film-makers aren't going to leave us puzzling over whom we should be rooting for. Even if Macleane is a disolute coxcomb and Plunkett a chippy ruffian, they're glamorous rogues in the mould of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid; they do their work with such charm, we're meant to think it an honour to be robbed by them. There's even a feisty blueblood named Rebecca (Liv Tyler) to take on the Katharine Ross chick-in-the-middle role.

The pity of it is that, having established its pistol-toting heroes, the film hasn't much of a clue what to do with them. Scott and his design team have put some effort into conjuring the Hogarthian grime and corruption of London - nobody seems to have taken a bath since the first Jacobite rebellion - but it still has the look of an 18th-century theme-park. For scenes of bustling street life, cue a cockfight, a passing sedan chair and a cast of snaggle-toothed extras. For scenes of beau-monde extravagance, cue swarms of powdered popinjays not seen in such looming close-up since *The Draughtsman's Contract*. One of the



Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller: having established its heroes, the film unfortunately has no clue as to what to do with them

big set-pieces is a society ball at which Macleane must engage the attentions of a woman "as rich as she is horny" - the location is typical, I'm afraid - though here as elsewhere credulity is afforded by the decision to overlay the action with a thumping techno sound-track. I suppose somebody fancied this to be a daring juxtaposition of styles.

The same desire to be up-to-the-minute even influences the one aspect of costume drama you'd expect any film to get right - the costume. When the society rake Lord Rochester (Alan Cumming, in a supremely annoying performance) appears wearing what is plainly a Philip Treacy hat, you sigh wearily at one more snook being cocked at the fuddy-duddy convention. This is ar-

rant modishness. I kept being reminded of another recent debut, *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, in which Guy Ritchie used his training in commercials to deliver a flashy MTV version of a London gangland picture. The difference is that Ritchie had the good sense not to let his adman's instincts run away with him; the farcical plot whipped by so quickly you barely registered the firmness of the construction.

Jake Scott, on the other hand, is less adept at concealing his commercial background and indulges the magpie sensibility with some recklessness. He's something of a highwayman himself in the way he steals from other movies; Peter Greenaway is a favourite, though you may spot bits of *Frankenstein*, *Bon-*

nie and Clyde, *Tom Jones* and *The Thirty-Nine Steps*. This isn't a crime for a film-maker - even Welles stole - but in the case of *Plunkett & Macleane* you never sense that anything much underpins the borrowings. Everything has been designed to within an inch of its life, and nothing thought through.

Like his father, Scott exhibits a flair for composition without convincing us that he has the intelligence to back it up. He has been spectacularly let down by the script, which took no fewer than three people to write. "What rhymes with Rebecca?" Macleane asks. "Pecker," replies Plunkett. That's about the standard.

Even if the screenplay had been up to snuff, Robert Carlyle and

Jonny Lee Miller are not naturally comic talents. The bantam aggression of the one and the sculpted handsomeness of the other have been used to good effect before; here they're required to do little more than look athletic and point their horses the right way. Nothing in the movie is sillier than the scene in which they rob the guests at a wedding banquet and exit to the picturesque accompaniment of fireworks. Disbelief, at first suspended, starts twisting on the gallows long before the end. So much effort for the sake of flash and dash. This thing stands, just about, but it doesn't deliver.

Jake Scott is interviewed on page 12

ALSO SHOWING

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER CHARLES LAUGHTON (12) ■ BLAST FROM THE PAST HUGH WILSON (12) ■ BEYOND SILENCE CAROLINE LINK (12) ■ TEA WITH MUSSOLINI FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI (PG)

FIRST REVEILED on its release in 1958, *The Night of the Hunter* has since been embraced, rightly, as one of the greatest of all American films. How to explain its lyrical strangeness? It was a one-off for both its director, Charles Laughton, and its star Robert Mitchum, whose performance as a deranged evangelist preacher was spookily different from his traditional tough-guy persona. Adapted from a novel by Davis Grubb, the film is pitched somewhere between a Depression fable and a black fairytale, and touches on subjects still at the heart of contemporary cinema: innocence, childhood, murder, sexual repression, and the mystery of good and evil.

Set in Thirties Ohio, it concerns the fate of two children, Pearl, and her older brother John, who are made privy to the whereabouts of the \$10,000 their father stole just before his arrest and execution. His feckless widow (Shelley Winters) is

then ensnared by the itinerant preacher, Harry Powell, who tries to intimidate her children into telling him where the loot is. When their mother suddenly "disappears", brother and sister escape downriver on a skiff, with Powell in relentless pursuit. And, just as this children's story has a bogeyman, it also has a fairy godmother in the kindly old woman (Lillian Gish) who offers them a home.

The film critic James Agee wrote the script (Laughton apparently rewrote it), though far more notable is Stanley Cortez's eerie black and white photography. There are images here that amaze and horrify - a drowned woman's hair waving in liquid unison with the weeds; the preacher, mounted and singing, silhouetted against a horizon; and the stuff of nightmares this, his hands reaching to grasp the children as he pursues them up the cellar steps. As David Thomson has remarked, one

feels relieved not to have seen this film as a child - it could scar you for life.

Yet childhood and its private accommodations are the central current here. "Children are humanity's strongest - they abide," says the old woman. Strongest, and strangest, too. Why does John swoon in distress when troopers arrest Powell? And why does he then refuse to identify the killer in court? There are puzzles within *The Night of the Hunter* that defy elucidation, as it should be with any great work of art. That it was a failure in its day ensured that Laughton never got to direct another film. Let's be grateful that the only one he did make is a masterpiece.

Blast From The Past puts the idea of *Pleasantville* in reverse. It's 1962, and convinced that Cuban missiles are about to launch the apocalypse, a paranoid Californian professor (Christopher Walken) rushes his pregnant wife (Sissy



Cher and Lily Tomlin in 'Tea with Mussolini'

Space) into a vast bomb shelter stocked with all mod cons and a lifetime's supply of frozen food. When a plane crashes on top of their house, the prof believes it's a nuclear strike and

seals the shelter locks for 35 years. Marooned within this hermetic bunker, their son Adam grows up to be a strapping young man with perfect manners, good French and a

suave dance technique which he has picked up from his parents' swing records.

He's also completely guileless, so when he emerges blinking into the sunshine of present day LA for the first time in his life, we're all set for another fish-out-of-water comedy. As played by Brendan Fraser, Adam's a puppyish naïf in search of a wife, so naturally the first woman he meets is called Eve (Alicia Silverstone), who can't figure out how somebody this handsome can also be so courteous and decent.

Even if the picture slumps in the last third, there are terrific laughs along the way: Adam's saucer-eyed delight with the modern world - colour telly! a computer in the home! - recalls something of Tom Hanks' winning naivety in *Big*, and his retro-swing hoofing at a trendy nightclub is so ecstatically performed as to be funny and touching all at once. Director Hugh Wilson settles for easy

options when things threaten to become complicated, but Brendan Fraser has a wit and wistfulness that keep you on the film's side.

Caroline Link's *Beyond Silence* is a family drama about a daughter's faltering steps towards independence. *Nothing new there* - except in the case of Lara (Sylvie Testud) her parents are deaf, and she is their cherished intermediary with the outside world. This can mean helping them negotiate with their bank manager or, rather more cutely, translating her teacher's critical report. Lara's close relationship with her father (Howie Seago) is put to the test when the birthday present of a clarinet from her affectionate but controlling aunt draws her away from home, leaving him more isolated than ever. The last film I saw that combined deafness and musical talent was the excruciating *Mr. Holland's Opus*, and I feared a similar drift

here. Yet *Beyond Silence* prizes subtlety and restraint over schmaltz, examining the cross-currents of familial tension and guilt with a beady yet compassionate eye. It deserves every success.

Is Franco Zeffirelli trying to do Merchant-Ivory out of a job? *Tea With Mussolini* is straight from the school of cream linen and tea on the terrace, with a fearsome trio of English grande dames - Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright - leading an expat clique through the perils of wartime Tuscany. Cher and Lily Tomlin hold up the American end. Zeffirelli doesn't direct so much as preside, while John Mortimer's script is a soft pillow of tweeness and whimsy on which to lay your head. Yes, Florence looks beautiful, but you'd have to be pretty inept to make it look anything else. Difficult to work up a response to a film as complacent as this, though militant boredom worked for me.

"Extraordinary...Stunning work from one of cinema's true visionaries."

THE
THIN RED LINE
EVERY MAN FIGHTS HIS OWN WAR

NOW SHOWING ACROSS THE COUNTRY



The leaver of the pack

Ally Sheedy did the child star thing; played the misfit; got the sack from her own agent. Now she's back on the screen and her mum, for one, is delighted. By Roger Clarke

Ally Sheedy was never a happy bratpacker. She may have been in some seminal Hollywood teen films of the mid-Eighties – as Sean Penn's girlfriend in *Bad Boys* (1983), as a basketcase in *The Breakfast Club* (1985) and part of a steamy love-triangle in *St Elmo's Fire* (1985) – but she largely spurned any association with the snotty but determined partying of the bratpack mob. Within a few years she had sunk without trace. As Emilio Estevez, Rob Lowe and especially Demi Moore went on to bigger things, Ally Sheedy couldn't even get an audition. There followed stories of depression, sarky comments about her peer group, addiction to prescription painkillers, a book of poetry... That's how bad it was.

Now she's back on a career coma with a clutch of awards for her role in Lisa Cholodenko's hugely praised, stylish debut feature *High Art*, which opens the London Lesbian and Gay Festival next week, and for which she has won an "Indy Oscar" – the Independent Spirit Award for Best actress. Who would have thought that the daft freckly kid from *The Breakfast Club* – who in one famous scene scatters her dandruff over a schoolbook page so it looks like snow – would find the ultra-chic role she was born for as a moody, thirtysomething lesbian photographer?

Of course, she's an old hand at this game: Sheedy is about to become famous for the third time in as many decades. She was born in 1962, and became something of a child star. By the age of six she was dancing at the Lincoln Center with the American Ballet Theatre, and by 12 had written a set of cute best-selling children's books called *She Was Nice to Me*. Just into her teens she was writing features for *The New York Times* and *Village Voice*. Then, on completing high school, she moved to LA to become an actress. After only two years at the University of Cal-

ifornia's drama department she started landing feature castings. One of her most memorable was as Matthew Broderick's girlfriend in *War Games*.

"It's a fallacy about the bratpack lifestyle," Sheedy told me on a visit to London a few months ago. "It never existed – it was the idea of some journalist, and it was a collusion staged only with the boys."

So those nasty stories of Ally being something of a wallflower were unfounded? Not really. She didn't drink, for starters and, as the daughter of New York intellectuals, was repulsed by the laddish atmosphere when Penn, Estevez and their ilk got together. Even though she was romantically linked to Rob Lowe, she scorned nights out with the boys. "Did I go?" she exclaims, tersely but expertly dragging an inch of ash off her cigarette at the very thought. "Who'd wanna go!"

Her career crashed in 1987 with a string of duds; she managed to eke out a living with dozens of soul-destroying TV movies while at the same time getting in a worse and worse psychological fix. The bratpackers stopped returning her phone calls, and she grew anorexic and addicted to prescription medication. Insensitive publicity surrounding her eating disorders pushed her further into her shell.

"I was very depressed by 1991," she tells me. Even now she's thin and nervy as a whipper. She never quite relaxes, despite occasional nervous releases of laughter. The amazing trademark mouth with its edges turned down is mesmerising. "I felt like a pariah and couldn't even get an audition, not even the chance to read," she recalls, without self-pity. "This went on for years and I'd do workshops and keep myself occupied, but often I just thought I should go back to school and become a vet."

She found solace in an unusual place. "This sounds corny and weird but I had this framed motto in my bathroom and I just kept reading it," she says. "It said: 'Half the



From absolute low to 'High Art': Hollywood outsider Ally Sheedy at last has a film to suit her maverick status

Neville Elder

battle is being able to take the punishment.' I thought, 'I had some very early success and now I'm taking the punishment.'"

Small things got her through. One of them was an audience with Robert Altman after she had seen his movie *Vincent and Theo* and somehow homed in on his survivor vibes. A mutual friend contacted the venerable old rebel and he called her up and invited her over. He wasn't quite sure who this narrow-hipped, miserable actress was but he entirely sympathised with her feeling of being crushed, overlooked and unappreciated. "I told him I was so depressed about work – and he replied that it was like this for everybody, and that I had to get out of LA to preserve my sanity." She did. She went back to New York

and got married and had a daughter.

Her flight from Hollywood didn't quite bottom out till she was finally sacked by her own agent. From this absolute low point came redemption: a year later she was called out of the blue by Rhoda Mitchell's agent, who started telling her about a film being developed by a young director, Lisa Cholodenko. It was called *High Art* and the script had the force of a revelation. "I had waited 10 years for a part like that to come along," Ally recalls. She knew she could act the role of Lucy Berliner, a melancholy arthouse photographer who is coaxed from reclusive status by the ambitions of a pretty, sexually ambivalent journalist, played by Rhoda.

"Lucy's entire emotional life makes

sense to me," says Ally. "It fits like a glove."

Despite growing up in the Valley during the Eighties, Lisa Cholodenko had not seen any of Sheedy's teen films. Yet she cast Ally immediately after her audition was over. The actress had no problems with the lesbian role mainly because her mother, the 63-year-old literary agent Charlotte Sheedy, is an "out" lesbian herself. "Mom didn't sit me down and tell me she was a lesbian until I was 18," says Ally. "But the fact of the matter is, being who I am, I knew about it way before. I grew up in Upper East Side Manhattan in the Seventies and it would never have occurred to me to judge people in terms of sexual orientation. I never discovered that there were restrictive ways of seeing the world until I was 20 and start-

ed giving interviews to people from Iowa."

"I've checked it out," is what Sheedy teasingly told *Out* magazine on the subject of lesbianism, but otherwise she is happily straight. So what does her mother make of *High Art*? "She's seen it four times," Sheedy says, "and she's never seen anything I've done four times."

Sheedy has three more movies in post-production (she admits to extraordinary energy levels) and has recently finished a novel that is a heartfelt sliver of biography disguised as charming allegory. "It's been rejected by one publisher but I'm used to rejection. It's about a dog called Betty who becomes an actress in Hollywood, but doesn't want to play just dog roles." Touche.

How to beat the rap

Saul Williams is a street poet and star of the tough US independent film *Slam*. But can his rhymes bring peace to the city? By Maya Jaggi

SAUL WILLIAMS spent his 25th birthday in Washington DC jail – not as an inmate but as an actor and poet filming *Slam*, one of the most potent American independent films of recent years. "It was my first day in DC prison," he says. "By the age of 25, a quarter of black men in the States are either dead or locked up, so the day I beat those statistics, there I was – to do research. It was surreal to meet my peers and know I was seconds away from me being them, or them being me."

Williams stars as Raymond (Ray) Joshua, a street poet and petty drug dealer, whose flight from a gang-shooting with a quarter of a pound of marijuana in his pocket plunges him from the frying pan of the United States' capital's housing projects to the hellfire of its criminal justice system. The title puns on "the slammer" and "slamming" – the electrifying performance-poetry contests sweeping across America that hint at Ray's salvation.

The first fiction feature by the accomplished documentary film-maker Marc Levin, the story was inspired by Williams's winning performance in the annual grand slam at New York's Nuyorican Cafe in 1996. By the time the actor went to audition, "they had footage of me performing across the country – like I'd been stalked", he laughs.



Saul Williams: 'This film was to combat the bullshit'

Williams, who wrote all Ray's poetry (but for a freestyle duet with a real prisoner in the neighbouring cell – "17 years old and serving 75 to life") sees the "underground poetry scene" as heir to hip-hop, the vibrant African-American street culture whose audience it often shares.

But its influences are wider. "I'm not a hip-hop poet," he says firmly. "Hip-hop is a rhythmic derivative of poetry. Whereas spoken-word, slam poetry, performance poetry, is poetry in the traditional sense – paying attention to metre,

stanza. Most of us were raised on hip-hop and lyricism. But if hip-hop is the child of poetry, after a while you think, wow, I'd like to meet your parents – like Walt Whitman and Shakespeare."

Through *Slam*'s realism Williams is also hoping to debunk the pseudo-glamour of gangsta rap. Shot in nine days – seven in the prison – the film used real prisoners and guards. Williams's first impression was of a slaveship. "People asked, 'did you screen out the white prisoners?' No: there are no white prisoners in

DC jail, despite the corrupt politicians and their often delinquent kids." He adds: "The first three days were the most depressing – there was no poetry in those grey walls. I see reciting poems as incantations, spells; they affect you whether you realise it or not. I've read in museums, churches, and loved the way it vibrated. But in prison there was no acoustic vibration: it was like still water. You could lose your voice trying to project in that place – which is a hell of a metaphor."

Still only 26, Williams admits the film's success has been slightly overwhelming. "You're put in a position to figurehead this thing, and it changes your life," he says.

Scornful of many of the offers now flooding his way, he says: "A film gets popular in festivals, and Hollywood says, 'Great: here's money to play another drug dealer.' Like, wow, I get to play next to Whoopi Goldberg, or whatever. It's bullshit. And the point of this film was to combat the bullshit."

He remains hopeful, however, convinced that *Slam* will plant "little seeds". "When a rapper like Coolio gets on national television after seeing *Slam* and says, 'yo, I saw this film and I wanted to recite a poem' – if we can get just two rappers not to play a part in the fucked-up programming of young people's mind-states – then those are the little seeds."

"Spot on... an unexpected treat... you'll have a good time I promise you."

Jonathan Ross - THE MIRROR

"The most charming, funny and loveable comedy of all time."

Nick Fisher - THE SUN

"Packed with the feel-good factor... The biggest cheers in the house..."

Maria Paggett - ESQUIRE

"Wit, invention and real, priceless humour."

Darren Bignell - EMPIRE MAGAZINE

"Amuses and uplifts... fast moving and assured... a winner."

Christopher Tooley - DAILY MAIL

"A mischievous exuberance."

Ryan Gibbey - THE EXPRESS

"A gem... A delightful charming romp."

Neil Norman - EVENING STANDARD

"It's got the lotto... fabulous."

Marika Frostup - THE NEWS OF THE WORLD



HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO WIN A FORTUNE?

WAKING NED PG

FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES and TOLARITY FILMS present in association with THE GIBBER BROTHERS and MAMMOTH FILMS A FILM BY THE ASKE OF LARRY PILLAI PRODUCED BY ANDY PILLAI WRITTEN BY ANDY PILLAI AND LARRY PILLAI DIRECTED BY ANDY PILLAI CASTING BY ANDY PILLAI COSTUME DESIGNER ANDY PILLAI EDITOR ANDY PILLAI EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ANDY PILLAI PRODUCED BY ANDY PILLAI AND LARRY PILLAI

AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE NOW

"It doesn't do to go over the top, so let's just say this is the greatest film of all time and leave it at that" BEN THOMPSON GO

ROBERT MITCHEM

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER

SHELLEY WINTERS LILLIAN GISH CHARLES LAUGHTON

STARTS TOMORROW

CURZON

Channel 5

Russell Gains Postcards (3,478,081)
 Whirly Show (R) (6067,238), 10,250
 (S) 44,520,230, 1110 Lanza (R), 10,250
 News at Noon (S) (3404,580), 12,500
 (S) 17 (S) 163,833, 1,500 The Bold and
 (S) 12,472,230, 1,500 The Measure
 (2,698,934), 2,00 No (S) Per Carl Gault
 (60,864,000) (S) (65,347,500)

Big Gay, The Command, David B. Bick
 Bill Gay, Cooper, Guy Medford, In a
 series of washers he made in the 16
 an army medical officer who assumes
 cackly troop when his major is killed

5 News Update (59,488,930), 5,245
 Postcards (58,467,284), 5,300 100 For

6 News, The Coming First on Five
 four the studio (S) (7) (53,381,081),

Family Affair, Che's "outing" for
 elier (S) (7) (8,263,835).

Knight Rider: David Hasselhoff and his posse take a **Polish** lesson at a **Wine** conference (T) (235325).

Nature of Oz: Australian wildlife dc the dolphins that inhabit rivers and int (S) (T) (6322217).

The Paper Chase: Real perform 1 to Star Trek the Next Gen. Singing dr **Go What You Give** (2261653).

Viva España: On ny, pass the dut the-sunburnt critics in this new series, ex-pats living on the Costa Brava, then in the Canary Islands (2347072).

Eliza: **Theresa** (Bill N. Yonon: 1898 U the classic 1850s style shown in but the master pilot for a proposed network, Inwood said. "I think, but you've got a general idea of the success of the series. I think the series is a validation, Norton, is heavily involved in features (T) (2374559).

8 specially selected episodes, presented by Cliff the mallman, Saturday's and Sunday's 9:30 AM on the Paramount Comedy Channel

Bring Me the Head of Light Entb
guests Jinder Sangson and Richard Ma
Red Shoe Diaries. Spot the boob
goes porn (#478979).
Live and Dangerous (7994826) &
(R) (S) (#32647). To Gem.

FILM OF THE DAY

هكذا من الأصل